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Guarantors Resume Talks Without Warring Parties

PY1002161695 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1500 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia, 10 Feb (AFP-NA)—The delegates of the guarantor countries of the 1942 Rio de Janeiro Protocol began a new round of negotiations in search for a cease-fire between Peru and Ecuador at 1130 local time (1330 GMT) today.

Juan Jose Uranga, Argentine under secretary for Latin American affairs; Chilean Vice Foreign Minister Fabio Vio; Melvin Levitsky, from the United States; and Sebastiao do Rego Barros, from Brazil began negotiations that will continue "without a break" without the presence of the delegates of the warring countries.

Guarantors Deplore Conflict

PY1002223995 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Representatives of Brazil, the United States, Argentina, and Chile have met to discuss the Peruvian-Ecuadoran conflict.

Diplomats from the United States, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile—the guarantor countries of the Rio Protocol of 1942, which established the Peruvian-Ecuadoran border—continue to convene over the armed conflict between these two nations.

In Brasilia this afternoon, Itamaraty Secretary General Sebastiao do Rego Barros coordinated another meeting of the deputy foreign ministers of the four guarantor countries.

After the meeting, a note was released in which the guarantor countries reaffirmed their attempts to find a peaceful settlement of the conflict, deploring the loss of human lives and the continuation of the armed conflict. The guarantor countries also asked for the immediate suspension of hostilities, and called upon the international community to refrain from supplying weapons and military equipment to Ecuador and Peru.

Guarantors Call for Military Commission

PY1102001895 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2112 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia, 10 Feb (EFE)—The guarantor countries in the conflict between Ecuador and Peru today summoned a "technical-military" meeting of Argentine, Brazilian, Chilean, and U.S. representatives to analyze how to implement a cease-fire, whenever it occurs.

The guarantors also emphasized that they are maintaining their offer to send to the area of the conflict "a mission to check compliance with the cease-fire and preventive measures."

Upon conclusion of their meeting today, the guarantors issued a communique stating that "with a view toward creation of that mission, the said meeting is being called for next week, in Brasilia."

The diplomatic representatives, who met in Brasilia, urged "the international community to join in their firm determination to refrain from supplying weapons and military materiel to Ecuador and Peru while the hostilities between the two countries continue."

The guarantors stated that "they continue to meet, endeavoring to help Ecuador and Peru find a solution to the current crisis through a dialogue with their representatives." The crisis began on 26 January with armed clashes on the two countries' common border in the Condor Mountain Range.

"In deploring the loss of human lives and the persistent armed clashes, the guarantor countries reiterate that they are convinced that both sides will be able to find an accord to restore peace and create the conditions for finding a lasting solution to the current impasse," the communique added.

"In this regard, the guarantor countries reiterate the urgent need to immediately suspend hostilities," the communique added.

Technical-Military Committee Summoned

PY1002235895 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2218 GMT 10 Feb 95

[Telephone report by EFE correspondent Hernan Baoz in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Good afternoon, Hernan.

[Baoz] Good evening. It is 2019 here in Rio de Janeiro. The meeting of the delegates from the guarantor countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol ended about an hour ago in Brasilia. After the meeting the guarantor countries issued a declaration summoning a technical-military meeting for sometime next week.

This is so that military and topographic experts can study what steps must be adopted to verify an eventual cease-fire, which may be achieved within the next few hours.

This unusual unilateral summons made by the guarantor countries has created certain expectations among the journalists who are closely following the development of the negotiations between Argentine, Brazil, Chile, and the United States. They believe this summons might be an indication that the negotiations that started on 26 January to achieve a cessation of hostilities may be about to end.

[Announcer] Hernan, if you will allow me. The fact is that Ecuador has refused to sign the peace proposal drafted on 5 February in Rio de Janeiro, and that the United States has pressured Ecuador to abide by this agreement. Does this mean that Ecuador is surrounded, diplomatically speaking, and that the international community is realizing that Peru is right in requesting the (?enforcement) of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol?

[Baoz] Well, you will have to excuse me, but I could not describe the situation in those terms. Our expectations here are centered on the negotiations process, on the fact that the guarantor countries have been able to achieve a resumption of the discussion on the demilitarization of the region, and on the issuance of a declaration summoning a delegation to verify a cease-fire. In view of this, local experts and columnists believe that the dialogue process is firm, and that the negotiations are bent toward achieving the objective supported by all Latin American countries.

[Announcer] Hernan, how did the Ecuadoran and Peruvian deputy foreign ministers welcome the proposal made by the four guarantor countries? Did they meet with journalists at the end of the meeting?

[Baoz] No, no, no. They did not attend this meeting, because as I have told you this was a unilateral decision adopted by the guarantor countries. The meeting lasted the entire afternoon. Moreover, they have reported that they will not hold any official meeting over the weekend. They added, however, that they will be in constant contact with the Ecuadoran and Peruvian diplomatic representatives.

It is also worth mentioning that for the first time they stressed the need to grant humanitarian assistance to all those who were injured in battle. They also reasserted the need to cease hostilities, and asked the Latin American community to refrain from selling guns to the two countries while the conflagration lasts. This clearly shows that all countries, particularly the guarantor countries, are greatly concerned about the terrible consequences of this conflict.

[Announcer] I would like you to confirm something. Does this military-technical meeting constitute a step before the establishment of the observers committee to be sent to the conflict area after a cease-fire is implemented?

[Baoz] Yes, indeed. It would be a prior step. These experts will be virtually [words indistinct] and laying the grounds for the operation of the commission to be appointed. As you may understand, there is a need to be familiar with the region, the borders, and the prevailing military and battle situation, in order to definitively establish who will make up the commission, which must include diplomats, politicians, members of the military, and experts.

[Announcer] Is it known why U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Alexander Watson did not attend this meeting of delegates of the guarantor countries, as Ecuador has questioned this issue?

[Baoz] This is still an unanswered question. Neither the journalists assigned to cover the negotiations process nor the diplomats of the six countries involved in the negotiations have been able to explain this.

[Announcer] Thank you very much, Hernan Baoz from the EFE news agency, for this important report from Rio de Janeiro.

[Baoz] Thank you. .

[Announcer] What I would like to state is that based on the telephone conversation we have had with Hernan, it seems that the guarantor countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol do not want to continue discussing proposals with the Ecuadoran and Peruvian representatives at the negotiating table. In other words, they have already designed a way in which to avoid the rejection of proposals such as the one in Rio de Janeiro that was rejected by Ecuador.

Ecuadoran Negotiator: Cease-Fire Necessary

PY1102210495 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1852 GMT 11 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia, 11 Feb (AFP-NA)—In remarks made in Brasilia on 11 February, Ecuadoran Deputy Foreign Minister Marcelo Fernandez de Cordoba said that a cease-fire in the border area between Ecuador and Peru is necessary "to make progress" in the peace negotiations that are being held here to find a solution to the armed conflict between both countries.

During a brief news conference following the 35-minute meeting he held today in Brasilia with representatives of the guarantor countries to the Rio de Janeiro Protocol of 1942, De Cordoba said: "Things are not better because agreement on a cease-fire has not yet been achieved" between the feuding parties. He added that during this Saturday meeting with guarantor countries "we discussed all aspects of the conflict, not merely the cease-fire."

Asked whether the technical-military meeting to prepare a mission of observers to the conflict area convened by the guarantors on the evening of 10 February could be considered as progress in the peace negotiation, De Cordoba replied: "That will be seen when the guarantors meet with both parties."

He further stated that other meetings might be held this Saturday afternoon with the representatives of guarantor countries who are in Brasilia trying to make the warring nations reach a settlement to put an end to the armed conflict between them. Even though it was not officially announced, the group of mediators may summon Peruvian Deputy Foreign Minister Eduardo Ponce, who is in Brasilia awaiting developments, to a meeting this afternoon.

Informal Talks To Be Held Over Weekend

PY1102212295 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2023 GMT 11 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brasilia, 11 Feb (AFP-NA)—After having met for more than two hours, the delegations from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States—the guarantors to the border protocol between Ecuador and Peru signed in Rio de Janeiro in 1942—suspended the meeting they had unexpectedly started this Saturday.

The Brazilian Foreign Ministry spokesman informed the press that informal meetings will be held over the weekend with the feuding parties to try to reach an agreement on a cease-fire. He nonetheless made it clear that no date or time has yet been set for the resumption of negotiations.

On 11 February, representatives of the guarantor countries met for 35 minutes with Ecuadoran Deputy Foreign Minister Marcelo Fernandez de Cordoba, but they did not meet with Peruvian Deputy Foreign Minister Eduardo Ponce, who is awaiting any further developments. [passage omitted]

Peru's Negotiator Leaves 'Visibly Irritated'

PY1202235895 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2259 GMT 12 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia, 12 Feb (EFE)—After meeting for nearly 20 minutes with the representatives of the guarantor countries, Peruvian Deputy Foreign Minister Eduardo Ponce left the meeting visibly irritated.

Just as he did upon his arrival, Ponce again declined to make comments to the press as he left the meeting at 2050 local time (2250 GMT).

Alluding to an alleged pact between the guarantor representatives and the two contending parties to not disclose any specific point of the talks, Ponce said: "I am not going to break my promise. I am going to remain silent." These were the only words he uttered before departing.

The representatives of the guarantor countries are still meeting.

The meeting of the guarantor representatives (Argentina, Brazil, Chiile, and the United States of America) began at 1900. Ecuadoran Deputy Foreign Minister Marcelo Fernandez may also be called to the meeting today for consultation.

Guarantors Meet Peruvian Negotiator

PY1202233595 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2245 GMT 12 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia, 12 Feb (EFE)—Representatives of the guarantor countries in the dispute between Ecuador and Peru are meeting with Peruvian Deputy Foreign Minister Eduardo Ponce in what has become the first working meeting being held today, 12 February.

Ponce arrived at Itamaraty Palace, the seat of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, at 2030 local time (2230 GMT) and declined to make remarks to the press. Without stopping and walking swiftly, Ponce said: "Excuse me, but I have nothing to say."

The meeting of representatives of the guarantor countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States of America) started one and a half hours earlier. According to sources from the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, the guarantors have apparently presented to the Peruvians some specific proposals made by Ecuador.

Chilean Vice Foreign Minister Fabio Vio said that Ecuadoran negotiator Marcelo Fernandez may be called to the meeting later.

Guarantors Meet Ecuador's Negotiator

PY1302010095 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0005 GMT 13 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia, 12 Feb (EFE)—Representatives of the guarantor countries in the dispute between Ecuador and Peru who were meeting in Brasilia have just called a recess, which will apparently last one hour.

The recess began at 2145 local time (2345 GMT 12 February) after the guarantors had held brief meetings with Peruvian negotiator Eduardo Ponce and with Ecuadoran negotiator Marcelo Fernandez.

The meeting of the guarantor representatives began at 1900 and the first to be called to the meeting was Ponce, who attended the meeting for about 20 minutes.

Then, Fernandez also met with the guarantor representatives for about 20 minutes at Itamaraty Palace, the seat of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry.

Neither Ponce nor Fernandez wanted to talk about the issues discussed, but Fernandez noted that he was going to join the meeting again tonight.

Ponce left the meeting in a hurry and appeared to be rather irritated, while Fernandez kept his inscrutable poise.

A Brazilian Foreign Ministry spokesman Antonio Simoes said that there is a certain degree of optimism and that "the subject is moving on."

Simoes said it is not known what time the meeting will end tonight. The spokesman said: "It is going to take a long time."

Brazilian Official: Talks 'More Productive'

PY1302062695 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0415 GMT 13 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brasilia, 13 Feb (EFE)—A Brazilian Foreign Ministry spokesman today stated that the 12 February meeting of representatives of the guarantor countries with the Ecuadoran and Peruvian delegations was more productive than that of 11 February.

Upon adjourning the meeting at 0110 this morning (0310 GMT 13 February), Antonio Simoes said: "There is now a more solid, more consistent dialogue."

Simoes added the talks, which will be resumed at noon today, "experience expansions and contractions, but this is normal."

Simoes said: "The important thing is to have understanding and the desire to reach an agreement on the basis of certain points, which I cannot cite to you."

Experts from the guarantor countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States of America), who were summoned to arrange the mission that will travel to the disputed zone if an agreement is reached, are scheduled to start convening this week. [passage omitted]

Cuba

Alarcon Views U.S. Immigration Policy, Guantanamo Usage

FL1002172395 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 10 Feb 95

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation of Cuban rafters in Guantanamo Naval Base, and the current status of migratory relations between Cuba and the United States, have been issues discussed by academics and politicians, therefore, you are invited to hear the statements of Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, who headed the Cuban delegation to the third round of migratory talks between Cuba and the United States:

[Begin Alarcon recording] Rafters have several options: return to their homes and go through the procedures, just like everyone else; stay in the camps indefinitely; or—a courtesy that the United States offers to the rafters—go to a third country that will accept them. I think that some will be going to Spain, and others have gone to Venezuela. There are exceptions, based strictly on humanitarian reasons. There are cases which the Cuban and U.S. Governments believe are necessary to decide—minors, the elderly and the sick. Both governments agree that it is not appropriate for those cases to continue in military facilities, however, both governments agree that the solution given to these cases must be done in a manner such that no one will be so dumb as to think that they are modifying their policies by admitting the elderly, children, or sick people. This must be quite clear. This is a solution that must be taken due to the delicate situation that some people face, but in no way should it serve to inspire actions or situations that would place children, old people, or sick people in a deplorable state, from a humane point of view. [end recording]

Guantanamo is a territory illegally occupied against the will of the Cuban government, converted nowadays into an immigration center which contradicts three decades of open arms policy towards Cubans, however, there is a long way to go before discussion of normal migratory relations takes place. Alarcon also commented on this issue.

[Begin Alarcon recording] I would say that we cannot talk of normal immigration relations. The September agreement set the foundations to build a normal immigration relations. It is not fully normal because the United States continues to maintain a special attitude regarding Cubans or they would not be in Guantanamo, Panama...[pauses] or detaining thousands of people at the border every day, putting them in jail, and deporting them. There are still some reservations in the case of Cubans—which are understandable—and the legacy of 35 years of history which this new U.S. Government has began to change. I would say that the agreement is the foundation, the instrument which could allow...[end recording]

The immigration situation between the United States and Cuba has not been completely solved, but at least the legal path is open to achieve a normal situation. We will discuss the issue further at a later time and with other specialists.

U.S. Transfers 'Recalcitrant' Rafters to Guantanamo

FL1102025895 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Feb 95

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Of the barely 290 rafters that remain detained in Panama for participating in the December 1994 disturbances, some 40 were transferred to Guantanamo today on a U.S. military plane under tight security. According to a press release, the Cubans were transferred in four buses from the detention center to Howard Air Force Base under military escort. According to Colonel David Holland, beginning 10 February, groups of approximately 40 Cubans will be transferred, until all those designated as recalcitrant have been moved.

Foreign Ministry Official Criticizes Helms Bill

FL1002205795 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Feb 95

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade Luis Delfin Perez, deputy chief of the Foreign Ministry's Latin America and Caribbean Department, has commented on North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms' proposal to intensify the U.S. Government's campaign against Cuba:

[Begin Delfin recording] Frankly, this bill aims to intensify actions and persecution against Cuba. This would prevent the country from developing economically and deny it any chance of finding new [word indistinct] in Cuba's international economic relations. That is the goal. Just yesterday, I said in the capacity of Foreign Ministry spokesman that it is very difficult for any bill to add to the extremely ample and complex system of the U.S. blockade on Cuba. The U.S. blockade is not simply a set of measures: It is an entire network of actions and measures designed to prevent Cuba from developing economically. It aims to prevent our country from developing primarily by preventing relations with the United States itself and with U.S. enterprises worldwide from developing. Helms wants to internationalize the blockade with these measures. That is why I said that it is doubtful that it will add anything new, and that they are basically ignoring the demands of the rest of the world or the majority of countries who, at the UN General Assembly—which is inside U.S. territory—on three separate occasions have acted against the blockade and have called for an end to the arbitrary action. What Helms is doing is no more than repeating the history of abuse against the nations of the underdeveloped world. [end recording]

Radio Interviews U.S. Representative on Helms Bill

FL1002125295 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Feb 95

[Telephone interview with U.S. Representative Jose Serrano by Radio Havana correspondent Maria Elena Calderin; date not given; from the "Exclusive" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Calderin] We have Jose Serrano on the line to discuss reports that we have received here, in Havana, on a bill submitted by North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms, chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, seeking to intensify the already tough sanctions imposed against Cuba by the United States. Serrano, I would like your opinion on this.

[Serrano] Unfortunately, I believe it is still part of the mistaken policy of my country. In my opinion, Senator Helms' bill serves two purposes: first, it furthers his own agenda, which is extremely conservative; second, it responds to certain interests of the Cuban-American community, which is continuously demanding from the Democrats and, particularly, the Republicans to further intensify the sanctions against Cuba to advance their political goal. I believe it is very important to understand that the great pressure exerted over the U.S. Government by the voters of that Cuban community, unfortunately, makes it necessary for this government to behave in this manner. This type of action is the result of that political pressure.

[Calderin] Serrano, you pointed out that there is a risk that the Helms bill might be approved. Do you believe that this bill will have enough support among members of Congress to be approved?

[Serrano] That is a very good question. On one hand, I do not believe there is currently enough support to lift the embargo; on the other, I do not know if there is enough support to further intensify the blockade. On one hand, we know there are not enough votes to end the blockade; on the other, we do not know if his plan is to create an even more strict situation. I stress this because there is the risk of bringing the issue of Cuba to a point where the discussion would be much broader and then have that group of people opposed to the blockade. [sentence as heard]

Envoy Denies Ecuador-Peru Conflict Involvement

PA1202030895 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Feb 95

[Interview with Rene Castro Marchante, Cuban ambassador to Ecuador, by Marianela Calderin; place and date not given; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Calderin] Anti-Cuban elements have tried to involve Cuba in the Ecuadoran-Peruvian conflict, involvement which Cuba has denied. This reason is why we are making contact with Rene Castro Marchante, our country's ambassador in Ecuador.

Mr. Ambassador, you have issued statements in this regard. It would be interesting to learn directly from you what the truth behind these speculations is.

[Castro] I thank you for this opportunity to be able to explain to Cuban radio listeners and the public opinion what this topic is essentially about. For several days, well-known CIA agent Carlos Alberto Montaner, taking advantage of this dramatic moment the Ecuadoran and Peruvian people are experiencing with this border confrontation, has published with the worst intent an article from Miami in which he somehow involves Cuba, or attempts to involve Cuba, as a country that has or continues to supply weapons and material to Peru.

We have categorically denied—we have issued an absolute denial—Cuba is selling military equipment to Peru. First of all, we have clarified that Cuba's military equipment is of sole and exclusive use for the defense of its sovereignty and to safeguard its territory and people. We are not merchandising any military armament with Peru or any other country. We have also been talking, however, with the highest levels of the Ecuadoran Government, ministers, cabinet members, the Foreign Ministry, to give our utmost assurance that Cuba's position is constructive, repeatedly clear, to call on both countries to find a peaceful solution through dialogue and talks.

Cuba has made a call for the cessation of military confrontation, which is costing lives and material losses to two sister countries with which we have fraternal relations. Cuba, I repeat, is not participating in this conflict, as badly intended opinions are trying to make believe. Cuba is not supplying any sort of armament or has any participation in this regrettable problem.

[Calderin] Why is our country being manipulated by these anti-Cuban elements?

[Castro] This effort is intended to try to misinform Ecuadoran public opinion, which sees more and more clearly who those individuals are whose interests are more removed from the interests of the Ecuadoran people. I believe the ones behind this matter are, undoubtedly, the CIA, the enemies of Cuba, and those who conspire with the idea to take advantage of moments such as these to affect Cuba's image in Latin America and especially affect our relations with Ecuador, which are steadily moving ahead.

Our relations with Ecuador are advancing respectfully. We are working on the upcoming visit to Havana of the minister of industry, commerce, integration, and fisheries. We are also working on the visit of other ministers. Bilateral relations with Ecuador are moving ahead in respectful and fraternal surroundings. Both countries are seriously working to try to promote our trade and exchanges. Those who listen to these voices, which seek to affect this relationship, are contributing with this enemy work seeking to take away opportunities from Cuba and to damage Cuba's image with the Ecuadoran people, an image which is very sensitive at this moment and affected by this military confrontation taking place along the border.

[Calderin] You were telling me you had held direct talks with the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry to explain Cuba's true position. How did the Ecuadoran authorities receive this explanation?

[Castro] With much appreciation. I would especially like to say that the highest officials of the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry have repeatedly expressed their thanks for this constructive position, for this open position of the Republic of Cuba, especially because we have adopted and have a respectful position in the face of two countries, I repeat, with which we maintain fraternal and constructive relations as sister countries.

It fills us with sorrow to watch these countries face each other in a confrontation for so many days, and still no negotiated solution has been reached. I also delivered this message to the Armed Forces within these last few hours, and I am especially trying to talk to the highest personalities in the country, former presidents, former vice presidents, Congress deputies and leaders, with whom we can rapidly make this information available, this categorical denial over the attempts being made to associate Cuba in this type of participation.

[Calderin] You mentioned in your previous reply certain examples of relations between Cuba and Ecuador. I would like to very briefly, before ending, ask you, as the top Cuban Government representative to Ecuador, how you evaluate the current state of these relations.

[Castro] I evaluate them positively. I believe relations between Cuba and Ecuador are advancing with respect. Both countries are interested in getting relations in various spheres to flow much more. I especially believe Cuba's priority, which is also Ecuador's priority, is to try and strengthen and broaden our trade and cooperative relations.

I told you a few minutes ago we are very much ahead in preparation for the official visit to Cuba by the Ecuadoran minister of industry, commerce, integration, and fisheries, perhaps at the beginning of April according to the calendar dates we have been discussing these past few hours. The visit will be to sign an agreement of partial coverage which will allow the boosting of trade through a substantial reduction in tariffs. At the same time, the visit is to be an opportunity to sign an agreement to protect businesses and investments in order to encourage investment by official and private enterprise sectors in businesses in Cuba.

We also have some definite plans with the Agriculture Ministry, the Tourism Ministry, and the Energy Ministry. Some agreements have already been signed during the exchange visit by foreign ministers in 1994, and we are working very seriously today to implement these agreements, especially a boost the agreements may receive in the next few months with the celebration of the third joint Ecuadoran-Cuban commission, which we will hold during the first semester of this year as part of the foreign ministers meeting.

In summary, I see this sustained advance in the relations as being positive, healthy, and for the benefit of the Ecuadoran and Cuban peoples.

Foreign Minister Signs Accord Linking Havana, Manila

FL1002225795 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Feb 95

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina and Manila Mayor (Jose Alquiese), Jr., signed an agreement linking the Cuban and Philippine capitals today. The document was signed during a simple ceremony, at which Robaina stressed that the agreement was an important step in developing bilateral ties. The agreement involves increasing cultural exchanges, as well as allowing for cooperation in various areas relating to the restoration of old sections of Havana and Manila.

During his stay in the Philippines—the last stop on his second Asian tour—Robaina met the presidents of the House of Representatives and the Senate. He also met businessmen, Chamber of Commerce members, and industrialists on Cuba's current circumstances and on investment and joint venture possibilities. Robaina gave a news conference and discussed Cuba's current strategy with members of several solidarity with Cuba organizations at the University of the Philippines.

Fidel Castro Calls for Special Session of ANPP

FL1102185195 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Feb 95

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Fidel Castro, president of the Council of State, has called for a special session of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] on 25 February at 0130 GMT at the Convention Center in Havana to commemorate the centennial of the War for Cuban Independence.

Haiti

IDB Approves Soft Loan for Port-au-Prince Roads

FL1002193795 Bridgetown CANA in English 1646 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, D.C., Feb. 10, CANA—The Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] on Friday announced the approval of a U.S.45 million dollar soft loan for a maintenance and rehabilitation programme on Haiti's inter-city and Port-au-Prince road networks.

The financing, part of a U.S.125 million dollar programme, will also strengthen road planning and management within a comprehensive restructuring of the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications, the executive agency, the bank said.

"In addition, it will foster private sector and community participation in the programme's works and assist the government to define the strategy and mechanism to finance road maintenance," the bank explained.

"The resources will support the rehabilitation of 395 km and periodic maintenance of 205 km of priority inter-urban roads and 35 km of urban roads; the maintenance of 2,700 km of inter-urban roads and/or replacement of 36 bridges; and the purchase of equipment and tools."

An institutional strengthening component will provide assistance to the ministry to gradually enable it to manage the entire road network.

Studies will be carried out on a traffic master plan for Port-au-Prince, an environmental review and action plan in watershed areas where erosion threatens road investments, a user's charge mechanism, an update of a national transport master plan and the promotion of private sector initiatives in road construction and maintenance.

The programme is expected to reduce transport costs, save foreign exchange, increase employment and benefit the poor through the re-establishment of regular access to markets and social services, according to the IDB.

The International Development Association, the World Bank's affiliate, will contribute U.S.50 million dollars to the programme; the German Credit Bank for Reconstruction (Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau, KFW) will contribute 5 million; and the European Union will contribute 20 million. Local counterpart funds amount to 5 million.

The IDB loan is for a 40-year term, with a 10-year grace period, at a one per cent annual interest rate during the first 10 years and 2 per cent thereafter.

On January 11, the IDB approved its first loan for Haiti's economic recovery: 68.5 million in soft financing to stimulate economic recovery by financing key imports, emergency infrastructure, and agricultural projects. The bank also authorized 4 million in non-reimbursable financing to establish an Emergency Implementation Unit to execute works under the program.

The bank has also announced that it will move to reactivate nine previously approved financing operations with undisbursed resources totalling 132.3 million. IDB operations in the country were suspended in 1991.

Government, Caricom Brainstorm Before Ministerial Meeting

FL1202225895 Bridgetown CANA in English 2057 GMT 11 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Port-au-Prince, Feb 11, CANA—A meeting of Caribbean Community and Haitian officials preparatory to the Caricom Ministerial Mission to Haiti being mounted Saturday to Monday convened in Port-au-Prince over the weekend, Friday February 10. The purpose of the Mission is to identify areas for cooperation between Caricom and Haiti.

The Caricom officials were led by ambassador Matthew Beaubrun of Jamaica, and the Haitian team by Ambassador Raymond Valcin. Foreign Affairs Minister Ms. Claudette Weleigh welcomed the officials, including representatives from the Haitian Ministries for Public Works, Commerce and Industry, Planning and External Cooperation, Education, and Tourism.

A joint statement said: "The Haitian representatives identified a number of areas of immediate concern, including the repatriation of Haitian refugees, preparations for upcoming municipal and legislative elections, the functioning of a Truth Commission, the disarmament of military and paramilitary forces, the problem of illiteracy, and the strengthening of the country's public service.

"The Haitian representatives pointed to the urgency of receiving assistance in the organisation of the upcoming elections and in this regard identified the areas of security and the financing of the activities of the country's Electoral Council. They indicated that this matter required urgent attention, with the elections being held within 90 days. "The Haitian delegation also referred to efforts to operate a Truth Commission, established on February 1 to hear the case of persons who had fallen victim to the repression of the 1991 coup d'etat" against President jean-Bertrand Aristide. The Haitian delegation pointed to the high incidence of illiteracy in the country (80 percent) and the forthcoming launching of a national literacy campaign. It also pointed to the need to enhance the country's public sector which had suffered severely from the political turmoil of the past three years. Training and equipment needs were also identified. "The meeting also focused on specific sectoral matters, including tourism, fisheries, cooperation between the Haitian and regional media, the environment, human resource development, transportation links, and the role of the Caribbean Development Bank in Haiti's development," the statement said.

"The Caricom officials stated that the region would further examine these issues during the Ministerial Meetings which are scheduled for Saturday, 11, and Monday, 13 February." Four Caricom Ministers, members of the Caricom Foreign Ministers Committee on Haiti, were due to arrive here Saturday. The Caricom officials underscored the fact that their mission was not to impose any particular approach to resolving the difficulties being confronted by Haiti.

"They recognised that there were highly competent Haitians both inside the country and overseas. They said the Mission therefore was to share with Haiti the region's own experience and identify the areas in which Haiti could benefit from resources available in Caricom," the statement said. "The Caricom officials reiterated the region's position that it had limited resources but was prepared to offer Haiti technical and other forms of assistance within these limits."

Aristide Awards French President's Wife Certificate

FL1002231395 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Daniele Mitterrand, wife of French President Francois Mitterrand, visited Port-au-Prince on 9 February. She toured the premises of Family Is Life, the association to benefit street children that President Jean-Bertrand Aristide founded. Mitterrand is president of the France Liberty Foundation [Fondation France Liberte] and has been supporting Aristide's charity organization for several years. She was accompanied by the Haitian president on 9 February.

She arrived on a private 72-hour visit to the Haitian capital on 8 February, as announced by President Aristide during his meeting with Raoul Peck. Reliable sources report that Mitterrand will meet several Haitian personalities and nongovernmental organization officials before leaving Port-au-Prince on 11 February.

Mitterrand was received in Tabarre on 9 February. Louis Mercier Bellevue reports:

[Bellevue, in progress]...held in honor of Mrs. Francois Mitterrand, the French president's wife. President Jean-Bertrand Aristide awarded Mitterrand a certificate of honor and merit for her friendliness toward Haiti at his Tabarre residence on 9 February. Several Haitian and foreign diplomatic personalities were present, including French Ambassador Philippe Seltz, Prime Minister Smarck Michel, and Justice Minister Jean-Joseph Exume. President Aristide stressed his friendliness toward France and toward Mrs. Francois Mitterrand, whom he has met on several occasions. President Aristide congratulated the president of the France Liberty Foundation, who, he says, always goes all over the world with seeds of freedom, love, and friendship in her hands. [passage omitted]

Sources: High-Level Migration Meeting With U.S. Called

PA1002222595 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 9 Feb 95 p 1-6

[Report by David Aponte]

[FBIS Translated Text] The governments of Mexico and the United States have called a high-level meeting of the Bilateral Commission's Migratory and Consular Affairs Group. Sources from the Foreign Relations Secretariat have said the meeting, which will take place in Zacatecas on 13 February, is to study and discuss initiatives from the two countries regarding the migration issue.

The Mexican delegation will include officials from the Foreign Relations Secretariat, the Government Secretariat, and the Attorney General's Office. They have disclosed Mexico will ask the U.S. Government to "fulfill its commitment to consult Mexico about any new border control policies before implementing them."

They will reject the latest migration measures announced by the White House and express the Mexican Government's concern over the possibility of the anti-immigrant feeling spreading to other U.S. agencies.

The Foreign Relations Secretariat has instructed the Mexican Embassy in Washington to present the contents of Press Release B-044 to the U.S. Department of State. The document expresses the government's negative feelings about President Bill Clinton's new migration policies.

The sources have said the Mexican team will press for the respect for the human rights of those Mexicans who travel to and live in the United States, no matter what their migration status.

The two governments established the Migratory and Consular Affairs Group in 1987. Sources added that representatives from the U.S. Departments of State and Justice will be present for the meeting, along with Doris Meissner, director of Immigration and Naturalization Service.

According to the sources, the working groups of the two countries will discuss several border and migration control proposals President Bill Clinton has presented, as well as several initiatives from Foreign Secretary Jose Angel Gurria. They will also discuss bilateral actions to stop the activities of smugglers bringing illegal aliens into the country and the deportation of Mexicans for migration reasons.

While in Zacatecas, the delegates will discuss procedures for returning Mexicans with no papers detained by U.S. Border Patrols.

The Foreign Secretariat has expressed its interest in finding ways to safely return such people to Mexico, not only with respect for their human rights but also to transfer them to Mexican airports or seaports "without intermediate stops" and following "mutually agreed upon procedures."

The Mexican Government is seeking to increase the level of cooperation on migration matters, especially in areas of common concern, "acknowledging the fact that any comprehensive solution to the problem depends on Mexico's stability," they have explained.

During the sessions, they will work out ways to guarantee respect for the dignity and rights of the Mexican citizens, as they undoubtedly contribute to the economic growth of the country where they render their services. The delegation will present its migration objectives:

To enhance efforts toward ensuring respect for the human rights of Mexican immigrants within the United States, independently of their migration status; to press for the neighboring country to recognize the contribution Mexicans make to its economy, culture, and society; and to state the Mexican Government's concern over the possibility of the anti-immigrant feeling spreading to other U.S. agencies.

Additional objectives are to press for U.S. authorities to investigate and, whenever applicable, initiate criminal proceedings against those government officials or private individuals found to be guilty of crimes against Mexicans, especially those crimes classified as hate crimes. The group will strive for the United States to fulfill its commitment to consult Mexico about any new border control policies before implementing them.

The Mexican delegation will also seek a U.S. commitment to prevent Border Patrol operations from ending in incidents that harm Mexican immigrants.

The bilateral group's last session took place in Washington on 4 October, 1994. On that occasion, the Foreign Relations Secretariat expressed its rejection of Proposition 187, promoted by Republican Governor Pete Wilson, which is directed at denying illegal Mexican workers access to medical and educational services in the state of California.

Presidency Vows To Uphold Human Rights in Chiapas

PA1102155395 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 11 Feb 95

[From the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the republic has informed Mexicans that the actions of the Attorney General's Office [PGR] and the Mexican Army in Chiapas are not measures to show off military or political strength. In all cases, authorities have acted in accordance with the law and always with the goal of protecting the human rights of the civilian population and Indian communities in the state. The president also informs that his government recognizes that some prominent members of political parties and social organizations have made contacts out of good faith with the leaders of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN]. Ernesto Zedillo said he does not condemn such contacts because they represent an effort contribute to a dialogue.

In the communique issued by the presidency of the republic last night, the president explained that the deployment of the Mexican Army was peacefully conducted under strict observance of the law to prevent criminal actions. In no case, it stated, will the actions of the PGR lead to the harassment or intimidation of any person or institution outside the EZLN.

President Ernesto Zedillo said the application of the law against those who are threatening public security is not authoritarian or a show of political strength. It is simply compliance with our constitutional duty. The federal government also noted its deep conviction that the definitive solution of the conflict in Chiapas must come about through respect for the law, via political channels, and through a reconciliation. That is why even though essential measures were taken to avoid further violations of the law and new acts of violence, the government reiterated its request to the legislative branch to review and, if appropriate, approve an amnesty law which the members of the EZLN may take advantage of if they lay down their weapons and decide to exert their rights and press for their demands through political, legal, and peaceful channels.

Ernesto Zedillo said there is poverty in Chiapas, as well as a lack of opportunity and injustice, which has led to violence. However, the government intends to rapidly and efficiently meet the people's legitimate demands and to work within the full capacity of the state to resolve social demands.

Zedillo added that no acts of arrogance or revenge against Indian communities will be tolerated. No abuses are going to be tolerated, because the standard of living and dignity of the people have already been harmed, especially in the Indian communities.

Zedillo concluded the communique by sending a message to the entire nation by saying it must join together to make immediate progress in the construction of a political, fully democratic order to which all Mexicans can relate. It also stated that the government of the republic will in no way abandon its conviction and firm determination to make progress toward a new democracy.

Army Increases Presence in Chiapas; EZLN Mines Area

PA1002162795 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0955 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] San Cristobal de las Casas, 10 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Mexican Army presence increased today in the Chiapas conflict area while the armed group in that state announced the setting up of traps and the planting of mines in its area of operation.

Control posts intalled by the Mexican Army in various points of the conflict area started to be reinforced on 9 February after the federal government ordered the capture of leaders of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) that same day.

Military troops were reinforced in Rancho Nuevo, site of one of the main garrisons in the state, located 10 km southwest of San Cristobal de las Casas.

In San Cristobal, 1,200 km southeast of Mexico City, the Army and police carried out discrete patrols on 9 February. The military presence was also increased in towns considered to be under EZLN influence, such as San Andres Larrainzar, Simojovel, El Bosque, Bochil, but no incidents have been reported yet.

In San Andres Larrainzar Municipality, where the EZLN erected roadblocks several days ago, the Mexican Army reinforced its positions from 250 to 600 soldiers and deployed armored vehicles.

In Guadalupe Tepeyac, the region where the armed group has the strongest influence according to observers, the EZLN announced on 9 February that it established a "red alert," which includes a permanent surveillance and setting up of traps and planting of mines in accesses to the area.

First Captain Lucio said that the "red alert" was ordered to prevent the possible arrival of policemen and soldiers in search of leaders subject to legal action by the authorities.

President Zedillo ordered the arrest of EZLN leaders because the police found evidence that the armed group was about to carry out violent actions in Chiapas and other places of the country and announced military patrols in various parts of that state.

The Attorney General's Office (PGR) announced the arrest of eight persons who admitted having participated in the EZLN and identified their military strategist "Subcommander Marcos" as Rafael Sebastian Guillen Vicente.

"Lucio," who was interviewed in Nuevo Momon, said that the armed group started to set up traps in the mountains and to plant mines along accesses to the Lacandona Jungle area, where the group emerged on the first day of 1994 to present Indian demands.

Unconfirmed reports indicated that 40 PGR agents are in San Cristobal ready to enter the jungle to impelment, with Army support, the arrest warrant issued for the identified EZLN leaders.

Religious spokesmen reported that San Cristobal Bishop Samuel Ruiz, who presides over the National Mediation Commission for the Chiapas conflict, is in Mexico City with the other commission members.

In the Chiapas capital of Tuxtla Gutierrez, 1,100 km southeast of Mexico City, Governor Eduardo Robledo said on 9 February that his administration and the people of Chiapas support the federal government's decision.

The government of Chiapas will cooperate to ensure this action achieves peace and harmony in the state, Robledo stated in a communique on the measure adopted by the Zedillo administration, which took over on 1 December.

Governor Robledo, who took office on 8 December, said that the government's decision does not rule out political means to solve the problems and differences of Chiapas residents.

In San Cristobal, Amado Avendano, the main opposition leader in Chiapas, questioned the federal government's decision because "it entails advancing on Zapatista positions and violating cease-fire conditions."

A virtual truce has been prevailng in the conflict area since 12 January 1994, when the government decreed a unilateral cease-fire which the EZLN also honored.

The "alleged discovery" of arsenals and their being considered as an indication of new EZLN acts of violence "are pretexes to implement a decision that was adopted beforehand," and to justify a "military solution to the conflict in Chiapas and Mexico," Avendano added.

Avendano, who as candidate of the center-leftist Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) lost the state elections in August, on 8 December, installed a "rebel government in transition" against Robledo's "fraudulent" electoral triumph.

Mexico City Police Placed on Alert To Prevent Attacks

PA1002154295 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1418 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mexico City, 10 Feb (EFE)—Mexico City police have been placed on a state of alert and established tight security at some 160 strategic points of the city to prevent terrorist attacks following the steps taken against leaders of the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN).

A Mexican police spokesman told EFE that heightened surveillance measures were put into effect on direct orders from Mexico City Mayor Oscar Espinoza Villareal, but the total number of policemen participating in the operation was not disclosed.

The points in the city where police surveillance has been increased include government offices, banks, power plants, and subway stations. The police action was taken after Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo accused the EZLN of refusing to hold a dialogue and of preparing to carry out attacks in other parts of the Mexican capital. [passage omitted]

Bishop Ruiz: Situation in Chiapas 'Uneasy'

PA1002171195 Paris AFP in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Feb 95

[By Antonio Ortega]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico, 10 Feb (AFP)—The situation in the southern state of Chiapas is uneasy and the official announcement to arrest the alleged leaders of the Zapatist guerrillas could lead to a "witch hunt," Samuel Ruiz, bishop of San Cristobal de las Casas, told AFP.

The prelate said, however, that "we have to rescue the positive things from the speech delivered by Zedillo," who on Thursday reiterated his commitment to attain "a just and definitive peace in Chiapas" and also announced he will ask congress to approve an Amnesty Law, to which all Zapatist guerrillas who lay down their weapons may avail themselves.

Upon his arrival in Tuxtla Gutierrez, capital of the state of Chiapas, from Mexico City, Ruiz said that for the time being, he does not have the complete picture of the situation in Chiapas but said there is concern about what may happen following the announcement made Thursday by President Zedillo. [passage omitted]

The prelate, who heads the National Mediation Commission (Conai), which has been mediating between the federal government and the Zapatists, said "we have to continue working for peace even though the conditions are more difficult now."

He said we have to wait "two or three days to learn more details" about the evolution of events in Chiapas" and said he "has nothing else to say" other than what the Conai said on Thursday.

In a communique issued yesterday, Conai called on both sides to "reflect" in order to make progress in reaching agreements on the conditions for a stable truce. [passage omitted]

Police Discover Third Cache, Arrest 'Alleged Rebels'

PA1002173795 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mexico City, 10 Feb (DPA)—Police authorities reported today that they found and dismantled a third weapons cache belonging to the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] during an armed clash between police and alleged rebels in the town of Cacalomacan. The EZLN operates in the southern part of Chiapas State.

The report adds that one policeman was killed and six were wounded during heavy shooting that lasted almost three hours at a house in Cacalomacan. There, police seized an arsenal of high-powered weapons, rebel documents and propaganda material, and maps of Chiapas State. According to the official report, the police arrested at least 14 alleged members of the EZLN during the operation.

Quoting official sources, Radio Red reported that, during questioning, the rebels confessed to being members of the EZLN and said that the weapons the insurgent group uses were acquired in the United States.

According to the sources, they also said that the EZLN is financed by private accounts and receives economic support from the extreme left-wing Independent Proletarian Movement and the Ruta Cien bus driver union of Mexico City.

They also said that Bishop Samuel Ruiz of San Cristobal de las Casas has known of the existence of the EZLN since 1985—nine years before the Zapatist uprising. Furthermore, the priest held frequent meetings with the armed group's leaders.

The discovery of this clandestine arsenal in Cacalomacan follows another two found last Wednesday in Mexico City and the southeastern state of Veracruz, in separate operations that led to the arrest of eight alleged EZLN leaders.

According to the Attorney General's Office, police arrested Maria Gloria Benavides, alias Subcommander Elisa, during their operation in Mexico City. Benavides reportedly revealed the identity of Subcommander Marcos, the masked leader of the EZLN. Marcos was identified as Rafael Sebastian Guillen Vicente, a former university professor and former journalist from the northern state of Tamaulipas. [passage omitted]

Military Forces Massing Near EZLN-Controlled Areas

PA1002173695 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1643 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Comitan (Mexico), 10 Feb (EFE)—Military forces are conducting overflights in the area currently controlled by the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) and have begun to mass in Las Margaritas Municipality, one of the villages under Zapatist control, according to eyewitnesses.

Mexican Army troops are being transported in Hercules planes to the Lacandona Jungle, some 1,000 km southeast of the Mexican capital. Troops also have been deployed from central Chiapas to "El Copalar" runway in the city of Comitan. Tanks and military vehicles have been massing in this zone since early this morning, and, according to military reports, they will be sent to Guadalupe Tepeyac, the stronghold of the Zapatist rebels.

Army Occupies Two Zapatist Strongholds in Chiapas

PA1002214195 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1958 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Comitan (Mexico), 10 Feb (EFE)—Mexican Army troops today took over the villages of Guadalupe Tepeyac and Aguascalientes, two Zapatist guerrilla strongholds in Chiapas State.

The operation, which took place at around 1200 (1800 GMT), was confirmed by Indians living in Lacandona Jungle, in southeast Mexico.

Government troops arrived at the two villages in about 30 helicopter gunships.

Witnesses did not report clashes, thus it is assumed that the Zapatist columns have abandoned the area and entered the jungle.

Since hostilities began in Chiapas on 1 January 1994, the village of Guadalupe Tepeyac has been controlled by the Zapatist guerrillas.

The National Democratic Convention, convened by Zapatist guerrillas in August and attended by Mexican left-wing social and political organizations, was also held in Aguascalientes.

Over the last few hours the Mexican Army began an offensive to recover the Chiapas area under Zapatist guerrilla control, while judicial authorities have set out to arrest the main Zapatist leaders.

Indian Miguel Hernandes Santis told the media on the edge of Lacandona jungle that about 30 military helicopters overflew the Aguascalientes hamlet this morning.

A Tzeltal Indian said that 10 of the helicopters landed in Aguascalientes and the soldiers on board took up assault positions nearby.

An equal number of helicopters landed in Guadalupe Tepeyac, the source added.

"Everything looks calm; there is nothing out of the ordinary. It seems as if the people were not in the village," the Indian added.

Pilot Ramon Dominguez, who has overflown the Lacandona jungle in the past few hours, confirmed that about 30 military helicopters are maintaining aerial control of the Zapatist area.

"Now everything is quiet throughout the Zapatist area," the source added, confirming that the landing strips in Benito Juarez, Santa Rita, and La Fortuna, about 40 km from Guadalupe Tepeyac, are blocked with rocks and sticks to prevent the aircraft from landing.

At the Gabino Vazquez checkpoint, which provides access to Guadalupe Tepeyac, Mexican Army troops barred access to reporters and families trying to enter the jungle this morning.

Over the past few hours, entire families have been leaving Lacandona Jungle and heading for the main municipalities, Indian Ricardo Gomez reported.

The Army has reinforced its troops in the Flor de Cafe, Amparo Agua Tinta, 13 de Abril, and Ixcan military bases, according to witnesses.

It is estimated that the military operations involve about 2,000 soldiers with artillery and Air Force support.

Attorney General Speaks on Issuance of Arrest Warrants

PA1002232695 Mexico City Radio Red in Spanish 2000 GMT 10 Feb 95

[Opening statement by Attorney General Antonio Lozano at a news conference with unidentified reporters; date and place not given; monitored in progress—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ...through actions in strict abidance with the law and in full respect of human rights, with the inquiry and filing of the preliminary investigations triggered by reports filed before the state delegation of this institution in Chiapas State against members of the movement called EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army], which led to the investigations that were being conducted before the latest events. The identifications made through the depositions given by two individuals on 8 February allowed the immediate filing of the investigation and the issuance of the corresponding arrest warrants.

In addition, while carrying out a search warrant issued by competent authorities in Cacalomacan, Toluca Municipality, Mexico State, as part of an operation in which agents of the many police bodies participated, six 9-mm light weapons, one .12-caliber rifle, and 169 unused cartridges of various calibers, as well as the building where these weapons were found, were seized on 9 February.

This operation sparked a confrontation during which Jose Manuel Sanchez Hernandez died and Mario Fidel Epifanio was wounded. They were members of the State Judicial Police [Policia Judicial Estatal]. Fernando Dominguez Paredes, Gerardo Lopez Lopez, Joel Martinez Gonzalez, Joaquin Guadarrama Ayala, Gonzalo Sanchez Navarrete, Damaso Sanchez Olivares, Pedro Tomas Solis Roque, Israel Valdez Gonzalez, Ofelia Hernandez Hernandez, Brenda Rodriguez Acosta, Celia Martinez Guerrero, Patricia Jimenez Sanchez, Juan Segundo Castillo, and Yesenia Bernal Segundo, as well as four minors, were also arrested. One of the individuals arrested, Fernado Dominguez Paredes, admitted to being an active member of the EZLN, and Gonzalo Sanchez Navarrete admitted to being an EZLN follower and the brother of Luis or Valentin Sanchez Navarrete, an EZLN active member, who was detained during the operation in Veracruz State.

The investigation is under way and will go on file in due time for the crimes of homicide; assault; collecting weapons; association with criminal intent; possession of weapons restricted to the Army, Navy, and Air Force; and those resulting thereof.

In Chiapas State, the arrest warrant against Jorge Javier Elorreaga Verdegue was carried out. He will be placed at the disposal of the appropriate authority. Carrying out the orders made by the president of the republic and the arrest warrants, members of the Mexican Army, as aides to the Attorney General's Office [PGR], on 9 February started patrolling the municipalities of Soyalo, (Temo), Sabanilla, Simojovel, San Andres Larrainzar, San Lorenzo, Morelia, Chiapas, Lacandon, Guadalupe Tepeyac, and Champa San Agustin. They also carried out social activities to benefit civilians living in those towns. The PGR agents and the Army soldiers who are supporting the execution of the arrest warrants issued by judicial authorities have avoided confrontations or violent actions. So far, all PGR actions, supporting the Mexican Army, have been peaceful. Thank you very much.

Army, Officials Capture EZLN Leader 'Vicente'

PA1002232395 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2101 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 10 Feb (NOTIMEX)—It was reported today the Mexican Army and officials from the Attorney General'S Office have captured Jorge Javier Elorreaga Berdegue, also known as "Vicente," another Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] leader.

Attorney General Antonio Lozano said during a news conference that the arrest warrant against Elorreaga was executed on 9 February in the southeastern state of Chiapas and that he will be placed before judicial authorities.

An operation was carried out that same day in the state of Mexico where 14 people who are presumably involved with the EZLN were captured, and another important arsenal was seized.

A clash took place in this operation, which claimed the life of a judicial policeman, and another one was wounded. One of the people detained, Fernando Sanchez Paredes, said that he was a member of the armed group and that Gonzalo Sanchez Navarrete was a sympathizer.

In the action, which took place in Cocalomacan, Toluca Municipality, 60 km west of Mexico City, 10 weapons of various types and calibers, 13 clips, 18 grenades, and two explosive mines were seized, among other materiel.

Lozano clarified that special care has been taken while executing the judicial authorities' arrest warrants in order to avoid clashes or violence.

Meanwhile, Mexican Army troops began patrolling Soyalo, Temo, Sabanilla, Simojovel, San Andres Larrainzar, San Lorenzo, Morelia, Chiapas, Lacandon, Guadalupe Tepeyac, and Champa San Agustin Municipalities, in the state of Chiapas.

Police Arrest Alleged EZLN Leader Santiago

PA1102024495 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Feb 95

[Report by Juan Carlos Centollo in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas State; from the "Evening News Panorama" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] There was a great mobilization of Federal Judicial Police at about 1355 today. They flew in five helicopters from Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, and were destined for Topisca Municipality, about [words indistinct] km from San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas. The five helicopters landed on a soccer field. They had one instruction: the detention of Jorge Santiago Santiago. He was at home, at 2d Southeast Street No. 20 in Topisca.

Jorge Santiago Santiago patiently awaited the arrival of the Federal Judicial Police, who were under the command of Luis Antonio Ibanez, delegate of the PGR [Office of the Attorney General of the Republic]. It should be noted this arrest was executed without any problem whatsoever. One should especially note that when Jorge Santiago Santiago learned of his arrest warrant on television last night, all he did was await with patience. This is what Luis Antonio Ibanez has told us:

[Begin Ibanez recording] We told the gentleman, after verifying his identity, that he will be presented before the judge. I have precise instructions from the attorney general not to violate anyone's constitutional guarantees and to act with strict observance of the law. [end recording]

Jorge Santiago Santiago was in his home. He was dressed in coffee-colored shoes, beige pants, a blue-gray sport shirt. His hair is slightly gray, and he wore eyeglasses. He lives in a humble home with wooden slats. He said he was patiently waiting since yesterday. When the PGR delegate arrived, he simply informed Jorge Santiago Santiago he was under arrest and read him the charges.

Nevertheless, the only thing we were able to note is that he nodded yes and handed himself over to the authorities. There, his sister, Rosa Maria Santiago Santiago, said they were informed of everything by television:

[Begin recording] [Centollo] What is your name?

[Rosa Santiago] Rosa Maria Santiago.

[Centollo] How did you find out about the arrest warrant?

[Rosa Santiago] The television newscast.

[Centollo] Did he try to flee?

[Rosa Santiago] No, at no time.

[Unidentified speaker] He waited for them to arrive?

[Rosa Santiago] Yes. We waited.

[Unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct]

[Rosa Santiago] He works with the peasants. They may possibly be implicating him for his work, but he works on development projects with peasants.

[Unidentified speaker] Where does he work? What were [words indistinct]

[Rosa Santiago] In his office. You may visit it in San Cristobal. It is called (DEDN) and is located on Flavio Paniagua Street. I cannot recall the number. [end recording]

Of course, an important question came to light on whether he had any relation with the Bishop of San Cristobal or the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army]. On the first question, he replied that yes, he was connected with Bishop Samuel Ruiz:

[Begin recording] [Rosa Santiago] Yes, they work with him in some sort of way.

[Centollo] How?

[Rosa Santiago] These are organizations.... [pauses] how can I call them, organizations in which he is involved. In fact, he has worked with Conai [National Mediation Commission], and this is possibly the connection that is being made. [Words indistinct] [end recording]

We tried flying this afternoon in a state-provided helicopter to Guadalupe Tepeyac but were denied access to the place. We were told the Mexican Army had issued precise instructions that no aircraft, either private or state owned, is to be allowed to overfly the area. We can say for the time being there is constant mobilization at the airport, both by military helicopters as well as Pilatus aircraft, which are very easy to fly in jungle areas.

Colonel Reportedly Killed in Clash Between Army, EZLN

PA1102025095 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0146 GMT 11 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tuxtla Gutierrez, 11 Feb (NOTIMEX)—According to reports attributed to military sources, presumed members of the armed group in Chiapas State on 10 February attacked agents of the Mexican Army, reportedly leaving one colonel dead.

The reports, which failed to identify the colonel, stated that the incident occurred between 1200 and 1300 (1900 GMT) in the hamlet of Nuevo Momon, Las Margaritas Municipality, reportedly leaving 11 people wounded. Their affiliation was not specified.

The attack by presumed members of the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) occurred while Mexican Army soldiers were accompanying judicial agents who were trying to arrest leaders of this armed group.

The Mexican Government on 9 February ordered the capture of identified leaders of the armed group, including their main leader, "Subcommander Marcos," because there was evidence that the EZLN was preparing to commit new acts of violence in several parts of the country.

According to the reports, the identity of the colonel remains unknown. He reportedly died aboard an armored vehicle attacked by presumed members of the armed group in Nuevo Momon, a location which accesses the EZLN's primary areas of influence.

This is the first such attack reported since the Mexican Army and the Attorney General's Office initiated operations on 9 February to capture the identified leaders of the EZLN, which emerged on 1 January 1994 in Chiapas.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 0203 on 11 February transmits a 241-word item stating that government authorities who asked to remain anonymous said that "Colonel Hugo Monteriola died during the siege of Guadalupe Tepeyac, a former Zapatist stronghold, in an 'isolated incident.'"]

Bishop Reportedly Had Knowledge of EZLN Before Uprising

PA1102153095 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 0320 GMT 11 Feb 95

[Report by Cosme Aces; from the "Facts" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to statements made by the Zapatist guerrillas at the Attorney General's Office [PGR], Bishop Samuel Ruiz knew of the existence of the armed guerrillas at least several months before the armed movement began. It also was revealed that they were trained in Nicaragua.

Subcommander Marcos and other EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] leaders were trained in guerrilla warfare in Nicaragua by the Sandinists, according to some of the EZLN members who were arrested by the PGR. The EZLN members also revealed that Bishop Samuel Ruiz has known of the existence of the guerrillas in Chiapas since 1990.

Salvador Morales Garibay, one of those arrested at an EZLN safe house, confessed that Sandinist leader Lenin Cerna gave guerrilla training to Rafael Sebastian Guillen Vicente, now identified by authorities as Subcommander Marcos. He said Marcos and other EZLN leaders, such as

Maria Gloria Benavides Guevara and (Alberto Hijar Serrano), participated in guerrilla training in the Central American nation when it was governed by the Sandinists.

The Nicaraguan Army, however, today said it has no knowledge that Lenin Cerna, the current inspector general of the Nicaraguan Army, trained the Zapatists.

Another one of the people arrested, Maria Gloria Benavides Guevara, alias Elisa, said Bishop Samuel Ruiz knew about the existence of the EZLN and knew they were armed and planned an armed uprising in Chiapas. Subcommander Elisa, the third-highest ranking member of the EZLN, said Bishop Ruiz had been informed about the EZLN's actions in the jungle. She said the bishop, some five months before the uprising, tried to convince them not to resort to arms.

In other statements made at the PGR, Mexican art critic (Alberto Hijar Serrano) was reportedly the contact for getting a Sandinist commander to train EZLN leaders in guerrilla warfare. According to Salvador Morales Garibay, Serrano belonged to the Mexican guerrilla group National Liberation Forces—the predecessor of the EZLN—until 1981. According to Morales, (Hijar Serrano) was reportedly a member of the National Liberation Forces, but left because of differences with its leaders. (Hijar Serrano) reportedly went to Nicaragua where he met Sandinist Commander Lenin Cerna who reportedly trained him in guerrilla warfare tactics. According to Morales, Cerna gave (Hijar Serrano) information about the way interested Mexican citizens could participate in FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] activities to gain experience in guerrilla warfare.

Security Increased at Public Facilities Nationwide

PA1102165995 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0532 GMT 11 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mexico City, 10 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Police presence was increased in the capital and in several Mexican states today to prevent possible acts of violence stemming from the arrest of some identified leaders of the armed group in Chiapas.

Federal District Attorney General Juan Antonio Gonzalez said police in the capital are maintaining "permanent patrols" at strategic places, especially at petroleum and electricity facilities. The official pointed out the Roads and Safety Secretariat and the Attorney General's Office (PGR) agreed to carry out this joint operation yesterday.

The measure was adopted after the discovery of "two clandestine EZLN caches in Veracruz state and in Mexico City" and the arrest of some of its members, he added during a Mexican Air Force commemoration. The operation will ensure security at political headquarters, shopping centers, movie houses, and other capital city public places. In addition, the Judicial Police are ready to face any eventuality, Gonzalez noted.

He also urged citizens to carry on with their daily activities in a calm manner, because there is security and because no reports of disturbances have been received.

Meanwhile, police in several states throughout the country heightened security at public offices and facilities in view of possible actions stemming from the official actions against the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN).

In the northern city of Monterrey, PGR representative Roberto Soltero Acuna reported PGR agents have been guarding electricity facilities, dams, and strategic facilities since 9 February.

Heriberto Gonzalez, deputy director of the municipal police of nearby Santiago Muncipality, said 40 agents from various corps are guarding the water plant that supplies this city.

Mario Lopez, the security chief at the international airport in the capital of Nuevo Leon State, reported that security has been increased there in coordination with federal and state police corps.

The commander of the Maritime Customs Office in Tampico, Tamaulipas, Amadorores, said members of the Mexican Navy and Official Federal Police (PFF) were called upon to participate in security operations.

In Tijuana, Baja California, Roberto Alcede, administrator of the local airport, said a surveillance operation called "Phase 2" was established on 8 February to reinforce security measures. The official said the number of security agents was increased and the admittance of individuals not having business in the terminal in this border city was restricted.

In Baja California Sur, PGR representative Hector Cruz said there is surveillance at airports and maritime terminals, electricity plants, and fuel depots.

In Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, PGR members have been guarding the PGR office since yesterday, and judicial policemen are doing the same at the state Attorney General's Office.

Public buildings, such as the government palace, are being guarded by agents of the Judicial Police in the southern state of Guerrero, according to Ubaldo Segura, president of the Regional Human Rights Coordinating Board in the mountainous area. He said police and military security measures have increased over the past few days. He said the number of military units was increased in the municipality of Tlapa de Comonfort, 250 km northwest of the capital.

Meanwhile, the Democratic National Convention (CND) today urged people to demonstrate in the Mexican capital, the site of permanent patrols, to demand the release of the alleged EZLN members.

In a communique, the CND, which held its first meeting in August, condemned the PGR's charges against the EZLN yesterday.

"Government involvement in this case does nothing but reflect the forceful imposition of its privileges, and this jeopardizes the nation's integrity," the CND document stated. [passage omitted]

Police Agents, Army Members Destroy EZLN Garrison

PA1102233095 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 2030 GMT 11 Feb 95

[Report by Victor Manuel Mejia; from the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] One of the garrisons of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] located in La Joya, 5 km from Toluca, was destroyed in a clash between suspected EZLN members and police agents. We have a report by Victor Manuel Mejia. How are you, Victor? Good afternoon.

[Mejia] Good afternoon. An EZLN garrison located 5 km from Toluca, at a place known as La Joya, has been reduced to rubble and ashes. Broken glass, doors riddled with bullet holes, mattresses scattered on the floor, leftover food, books, as well as traces of the confrontation between suspected EZLN members and more than 200 police agents is the panorama one can see at an unnumbered building on Emiliano Zapata Street. This property measures approximately 1,000 square meters and has a building measuring 400 square meters.

On the evening of 9 February, shortly after the president announced the identity of the key leaders of the Chiapas guerrilla movement, Judicial Police and Army members arrived at this place. It seems the building was used to keep weapons and other supplies.

When the authorities got there, they were met by gunfire. Jorge Garcia Silva, commander of Mexico State's first region of the General Directorate of Public Security and Traffic and one of the officials in charge of the operation, explained the authorities were able to arrest 14 people who are involved in the EZLN movement following an intense shoot-out that lasted almost four hours during which a federal agent was killed and another was wounded.

This brick house had between six and eight rooms where police found a roomful of Marxist-Leninist literature, issues of the newspaper LA JORNADA and PROCESO magazine, maps of various regions of the country, a typewriter, and a rudimentary shop to make and repair shoes.

There was behind the house a small sedan and a van with all the windows broken by the bullets. There was also a tunnel that measured approximately 2 meters long, 2 and one-half meters high, and 1 and a half meters tall. EZLN members apparently used this tunnel for target practice and to surreptitiously collect and hide food. [passage omitted]

Army Institutes News Blackout in EZLN Area in Chiapas

PA1202003695 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2249 GMT 11 Feb 95

[By Federico Reyes]

[FBIS Translated Text] Las Margaritas (Mexico), 11 Feb (EFE)—The Mexican Army has instituted a news blackout for the area from where the Zapatist guerrillas operate. The Mexican Army has been preventing journalists for the past 48 hours from entering the area using their own means.

These prohibitions caused a sit-down strike today by about 50 national and foreign journalists at the Gabino Vazquez military checkpoint, in Las Margaritas Municipality, in the southeastern state of Chiapas, near the rebel area.

The Army began a broad deployment in Chiapas State yesterday to execute the presidential order to capture top Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) leaders. The EZLN rose up in arms in Chiapas on 1 January 1994.

Only about a half dozen Mexican journalists since then gained access to the hamlet, because they were transported via military helicopter to Guadalupe Tepeyac, one of the most important EZLN bastions up to yesterday.

Among the journalists who were afforded the facility were those from Mexico's Televisa Television Network. The Zapatist guerrillas had denied Televisa access to areas under their control since the beginning of the armed conflict.

Participating in the sit-down strike at the Gabino Vazquez military checkpoint were national journalists as well as journalists from international wire services such as the Spanish EFE and the British REUTER.

The journalists protested the prohibitions and announced they will deliver "a strong protest" to the administration of Ernesto Zedillo for having blocked their way to the Chiapas area, which was under EZLN control until recently.

Such problems had never been encountered in gaining access to the area since the outbreak of the Chiapas conflict. Previously, delays at the military checkpoints were up to a couple of hours at the most.

In addition to the prohibition to gain access to the conflict area, the information that has officially been supplied on the progression of the military operations that began on 10 February has been very scarce.

The Secretariat of Defense has not supplied any official report on developments of the operation, and the Attorney General's Office published the only communique, yesterday, reporting the death of a colonel during an armed clash.

President Zedillo has ordered the Attorney General's Office to arrest top rebel leader Subcommander "Marcos" and other Zapatist guerrilla leaders who presumably are hiding in the Lacandona Jungle.

Military authorities, in addition to the news blackout, have authorized only one small airplane to overfly the hamlet where the Armed Forces are deployed.

Transportation by small airplane in the Chiapas State hamlet is vital due to the bad condition of the roads. Each small airplane makes five or six flights on average per day to transport merchandise to Chiapas villages.

One of the small airplanes that tried to land in Guadalupe Tepeyac was ordered to leave the area by three military helicopters according to a civilian pilot.

Army Said To Advance in Eastern Sector of Chiapas

PA1202035395 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 12 Feb 95

[From the "Investing in Mexico" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Unidentified announcer] Access to the areas of conflict in the heights of Chiapas has been discontinued. Consequently, a mass exodus of people who live in this region has been ruled out, but it has been unofficially reported the International Red Cross will soon abandon its positions in Guadalupe Tepeyac municipalities and other places of the area. Juan Carlos Santollo is in San Cristobal and has a report:

[Santollo] Good evening. As you said, all access to the areas in the heights of Chiapas, particularly the Lacandona Jungle, have been completely closed by the Mexican Army. The advance inside the jungle through La Realidad Trinitaria continued yesterday. This path leads to the jungle and San Quintin. In addition, the Army has advanced in the eastern sector. We have been told it advanced to San Miguel, where it is advancing in two directions, one to Nueva Estrella, where some troops are already stationed in order to reach La Garrocha as soon as possible. The objective is that through this route and La Ligia, Pantewuit, and San Quintin a pincer can be closed so that Zapatist National Liberation Army members cannot go beyond the Lacandona Jungle, but possible exits are being determined.

The Mexican Army has continued its advance without firing a shot, shots of an offensive nature. We have been told there have been sporadic clashes behind these lines. [passage omitted]

In addition, we have been informed that Pablo Romo, one of Bishop Samuel Ruiz' main assistants, is under house arrest at the San Cristobal de las Casas Archdiocese. Pablo Romo is one of two main assistants of Bishop Ruiz. He is also director of the Fray Bartolome de las Casas Human Rights Center, an organization linked to the San Cristobal de las Casas Archdiocese. Romo will be under house arrest until the file on him is completed, thus allowing the pertinent judge to decide whether an arrest warrant will be issued for him.

The International Red Cross will disclose important information in a few more minutes, it was said. We can advance some of this information, and it is that International Red Cross members have already left Guadalupe Tepeyac, particularly due to risks of confrontations.

It must be noted the people of the Red Cross had remained in Guadalupe Tepeyac and other places inside the Lacandona Jungle for more than a year and had helped local inhabitants, but the Mexican Army is in charge of everything there now, including health and social services for Indian communities in the high regions of Chiapas.

[Announcer] Juan Carlos, we understand that the rumors about a possible arrest warrant against Amado Avendano are just that—rumors. Any confirmation?

[Santoyo] That is correct. Nothing has been confirmed. All we know is that Bishop Ruiz is in Mexico City and that Amado Avendano is on his way to Mexico City.

Government Communique Defends Actions in Chiapas

PA1202175895 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 12 Feb 95

[Report by Elvia Moreno; from the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Government Secretariat says each and every one of the measures taken by the Attorney General's Office [PGR] with the support of the Mexican Army in Chiapas has been carried out according to the law and with special care to protect the human rights of the civilian population and Indian communities. It is in no way a war, the Government Secretariat said. It has been reported that the PGR is acting cautiously, and proof of this is that as of Saturday, none of the actions has led to clashes in this state. The Government Secretariat explains that the federal government was forced to adopt the emergency measures in Chiapas because of evidence, which has been uncovered, that the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] was preparing to carry out more acts of violence and terrorism in the state and other parts of the country. In view of this threat to the security of the population, the federal government was forced to make the decision to order the arrest of the EZLN leaders.

The Government Secretariat says that a failure to adopt these measures would have constituted a serious lack of responsibility. It adds that the PGR took these actions because it was learned that the EZLN, on one hand, was avoiding a resumption of direct negotiations and, on the other hand, was taking advantage of this time to purchase weapons, as well as to extend its influence outside the conflict area.

This is why the Government Secretariat says accusations that a preconceived government plan existed are totally false. It notes that it was the federal government, especially the president of the republic, which insisted on specific initiatives to establish a dialogue and negotiations. The Government Secretariat indicates that the government of the republic is not disregarding the fact that the conditions of poverty and injustice, as well as the lack of democracy in Chiapas, are legitimate causes for unrest. That is why a prompt and efficient solution to these problems requires everyone's participation.

It adds that those who exert their rights and funnel their demands through legal, political, and peaceful channels may do so. The federal government reiterates it will ask Congress to review and, if appropriate, approve an amnesty law under which the members of the EZLN may avail themselves, if they lay down their weapons.

The Government Secretariat points out in a nine-point communique that the government of the republic [words indistinct] Chiapas must create conditions to overcome the poverty of the Indian communities, to achieve their development with justice, and to get them involved in political life through the strengthening of democracy.

This has been a report on the nine-point communique.

In another press communique, which is only one paragraph long, the Government Secretariat also says it has not issued any safe conducts or other similar documents allowing people to enter the conflict zone in Los Altos de Chiapas.

PGR Investigates EZLN Backers; More Arrests Expected

PA1202195595 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 12 Feb 95

[Report by Jesus Casasola from the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Attorney General's Office [PGR] has initiated an investigation of certain leaders of the United Labor Union of Route 100 Workers to determine possible connections with members of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN].

According to statements made by Maria Gloria Benavides Guevara, alias Subcommander Elisa, and by Salvador Morales Garibay, professor at the Metropolitan Autonomous University of Xochimilco, the EZLN received financial assistance from this group. The Federal Judicial Police also are conducting investigations to identify members of the Clandestine Workers Revolutionary Party, also known as the People's Union, and the Independent Proletarian Movement, who apparently financed the activities of the rebel group.

Members of the PGR and of the Mexican Army continue trying to locate several people for whom arrest warrants have been issued on criminal charges.

Meanwhile, the National Defense Secretariat said the individual who last Friday shot and killed Colonel Alfredo Manterola has not yet been identified. This incident took place in the area of Nuevo Mumon in Chiapas.

A group of members of the Party of the Democratic Revolution showed up at the PGR offices yesterday, where they denounced abuses they claimed were committed in the arrests of the first eight individuals sent to the Northern Penitentiary.

PRD Deputy Salvador Martinez de la Roca said they have already filed a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission because of the way in which these people were arrested.

We have statements made by Martinez:

[Begin Martinez recording] We are going to ask for their release because, according to the information we have been given, they were arrested illegally. Legal procedures were violated. We do not accept the charges that EZLN members are criminals when the federal government was conducting official negotiations with the EZLN. [end recording]

Salvador Martinez de la Roca added that if the detainees require legal assistance, the PRD would be willing to provide them with it.

Meanwhile, the PGR is conducting other investigations, the results of which will be turned over to the judge so that other arrest warrants may be issued.

Following the questioning of the detainees, new names of alleged EZLN members and new addresses of what presumably are safe houses emerged. These safe houses are currently being investigated.

Meanwhile, Public Security Secretary David Garay Maldonado said an uneasy atmosphere is being felt here in Mexico City because of the situation with the EZLN. He added that no violent incident or bomb threat has been reported during the past few hours, but he said that surveillance has been heightened in places considered vital for the country's capital. He called on citizens to report any suspicious behavior to enable members of the police to show up and prevent a crime from being committed. He said the operation is being conducted in coordination with the Federal Judicial Police. David Garay Maldonado said the primary duty of his administration is to guarantee the safety of the citizens of this great city and to reduce crime, especially violent crime. [passage omitted]

To sum up, currently 16 people are under arrest in connection with EZLN activities. Arrest warrants for 22 others have been issued. The PGR has indicated that more arrests may take place within the next few hours and that more safe houses may be searched by the Federal Judicial Police and the Mexican Army.

Army Intensifies Surveillance in Chiapas

PA1202215095 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1738 GMT 12 Feb 95

[By Jose Antonio Torres]

[FBIS Translated Text] San Cristobal de Las Casas (Mexico), 12 Feb (EFE)—The Mexican Army has intensified its surveillance in Chiapas on its third day of offensive actions to arrest the top leaders of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] in the Lacandona Jungle while the local people are trying to return to their daily chores despite the conflict.

Military operations, officially intended to support the police in arresting "Subcommander Marcos" or Rafael Guillen, are being conducted silently, with a minimum impact on the fragile routine in Chiapas since the EZLN rose up in arms in January 1994.

The military presence in 11 towns at the start of the operation is increasing as the Mexican Army advances and occupies the communities that were under the control of the EZLN in the Lacandona Jungle, located on the border between Mexico and Guatemala.

Military checkpoints are blocking the roads to the towns, which have been under EZLN control for the past 13 months and which preclude access to the area of conflict, where no armed clashes have taken place according to the Mexican Government.

In an attempt to open the area to media coverage, the Mexican Government will take journalists to unspecified sites in the area of conflict. American journalists will be the first ones to go, a fact that has caused uneasiness among the rest.

Meanwhile, in the Lacandona Jungle, military pressure on the EZLN members led them to abandon the region's communities under their control until 9 February, and they seem to be seeking refuge at the Marques de Comillas ecological reserve according to reports.

Military actions up until now have officially left one person dead, an Army colonel, even though there are unofficial reports of two dead soldiers, all of them killed in an armed clash which took place on 10 February and about which not many details are known.

On the situation in the conflict area, Italian Claudio Baranzini, head of the International Red Cross Committee center, which operated in Guadalupe Tepeyac, the EZLN's stronghold before the military offensive, has said the Mexican Army did not encounter any resistance when it entered the village.

Baranzini has said the Red Cross decided to leave Guadalupe Tepeyac upon the Army's arrival because its humanitarian duty was no longer necessary, given the village's population, almost 1,000 people, had already abandoned it.

Meanwhile, among the population of Chiapas' largest towns, there are divided opinions regarding the military operations and "Subcommander Marcos," and occasional support for the government seems to be emerging.

"It was about time the government made the decision to take action, because we were living in constant anxiety," a woman has told EFE in San Cristobal de Las Casas, the second largest city in Chiapas, located approximately 800 km southeast of the Mexican capital.

Many other residents of the city gather outside the city's cathedral to watch videos of Bishop Samuel Ruiz explaining the state's social situation as well as to receive copies of newspaper articles on the conflict.

Calmness prevails in Tuxtla Gutierrez, capital of Chiapas, and in Comitan, the state's third largest city, and a constant military presence is observed even though the presence of soldiers at checkpoints is reduced throughout the day.

In Teopisca, 32 km southeast of San Cristobal de Las Casas, Municipal Council leader Jorge Villafuerte has said the people are slowly returning to their routine after being one of the towns where the most violence took place.

Jorge Santiago Santiago, who the Mexican Government claims is one of the high-ranking leaders of the EZLN and the link between Subcommander Marcos and Bishop Samuel Ruiz, was arrested in this community of some 28,000 residents.

EZLN Denounces Army's 'Siege' Around Its Forces

PA1202233495 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2253 GMT 12 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] San Cristobal de las Casas (Mexico), 12 Feb (EFE)—The Zapatist guerrillas today denounced that the Army is laying a "siege to the death" around its forces and called for the cessation of "this genocidal war" as soon as possible.

The complaint is stated in a handwritten communique signed by the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) that was sent to San Cristobal de las Casas in the southeastern state of Chiapas.

This is the first official communique the guerrillas have issued since the Army unleashed an offensive in an attempt to capture the top rebel leaders.

Zapatists Accuse Zedillo of Wanting To Destroy Struggle

PA1302022395 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0008 GMT 13 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] San Cristobal de las Casas (Mexico), 12 Feb (EFE)—The Zapatist guerrillas today accused Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo of wanting to destroy their Indian struggle, because he believes it is an obstacle to his continuation in power, and said they are willing to find a political solution to the conflict.

In a handwritten communique that does not carry the familiar signature identifying communiques by Subcommander Marcos, the Zapatists ask Zedillo "if war is his last word."

They say that the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) is willing to recognize dialogue as the only political solution to the conflict in the southeastern Mexican state of Chiapas but that Zedillo has reacted by sending more troops to the region.

The EZLN command affirms that Zedillo intends to annihilate the Indian struggle, "because he believes it is an obstacle to his continuation in power, his enriching himself at the expense of the blood of scores of Mexicans."

They urge the president "not to kill his own people" and to reduce the pressure against "Marcos," because there are many Marcoses in Mexico who are prepared to continue with this struggle "if they are honored and proud to be Mexican."

"He ('Marcos') has been with us, side by side with the people, for the past 11 years (and) he has lived, eaten, and suffered just as we have," the Zapatists claim.

The Indians "know Subcommander 'Marcos' quite well, and we will never allow anything to happen to him. Should anything happen to him, we will not remain idle, because we Zapatists will never betray our dead."

They ask Zedillo whether his last word is "war and to continue killing Mexicans, Indians, or to capture all Zapatists," because if this is the case, the rebels have no other option than to defend themselves.

They repeat their willingness to hold a dialogue under conditions that are already known—the resignation of Chiapas Governor Eduardo Robledo and solving the postelectoral problems in Tabasco and Veracruz—in addition to the reduction of pressure on "Marcos."

"We have orders up to now to fall back in order to avoid clashing with the Army," the EZLN command members have stated but have said they were willing to die, because they have "nothing to lose."

The command reiterated that each stage of its fight "has been done with the decision of our peoples," who are fair; therefore, "we are not afraid of Mr. Zedillo."

The EZLN command told Zedillo he "has made too many mistakes" on decisions against them and will not end the struggle by "killing the Chiapas Zapatists or Subcommander 'Marcos.'"

They say they do not know where Zedillo "gets so much money to move hundreds of armored personnel carriers, helicopters, and thousands of federal troops to kill Mexicans and Indians."

They say in the letter that they know Mexico is in an economic crisis and that Zedillo is "lowering Mexican wages, hiking the price of products, spending plenty of money in mobilizing his troops."

"If he wishes, he can spend the $40 billion (of U.S. aid) to irrigate our Mexican soil, and you can ask the United States for more money to modernize your Army and finish off the Indian fighters," the letter states.

The guerrillas claim the weapons they have were the ones they took away from the security corps, which they accuse of gunrunning and, "therefore, they are drug addicts, criminals, and terrorists."

Detainess Admit Membership With EZLN, Complain of Torture

PA1302030195 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0033 GMT 13 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico, 12 Feb (EFE)—Seven of the individuals detained on 9 February in the city of Toluca, during a shootout with the police, have said they are members of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] and have complained they had been tortured.

The detainees made their statements before Judge Fernando Andres Ortiz of the 6th District Court who has informed them they are accused of association with criminal intent, homicide, assault, weapons storage, weapons possession, rebellion, terrorism, and conspiracy, among other charges.

Between 22 and 29 people were arrested during an operation conducted by the Attorney General's Office the night of 9 February following a shootout in which four policemen and three judicial agents were wounded in Toluca, approximately 65 km west of the Mexican capital.

The detainees admitted that they are members of the EZLN and that they have carried out actions to restore democracy in the country, thereby increasing opportunities for the Mexican people.

The first to make a statement was Fernando Paredes, who has said that he joined the EZLN in 1990 and that he was the caretaker of the house in Toluca where he was arrested. This house, he has said, was used to train the movement's supporters.

Paredes has said he met Rafael Sebastian Guillen, who has always identified himself by the nickname Subcommander "Marcos" and who agreed with him on the need to restore democracy in Mexico.

The other detainees are Patricia Jimenez, Cecilia Martinez, Ofelia Hernandez, Joel Martinez, Brenda Rodriguez, and Gonzalo Sanchez, who have admitted their membership in the EZLN.

The judge has said the seventh detainee has made his statement at the military hospital, because he had been seriously wounded during the 9 February shootout.

Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo on 9 February ordered the arrest of the top EZLN leaders, whom he accused of organizing terrorist actions while the government offered the possibility of a political solution.

Army Intensifies Patrols in San Andres Larrainzar

PA1302032295 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 13 Feb 95

[From the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We have news on what is happening now in Chiapas State according to what certain wire service correspondents and special envoys are reporting.

Mexican Army soldiers have deployed in San Andres Larrainzar and have intensified their patrols in view of the possibility that Zapatist Army members may be hidden in the area. It is said that along the road linking San Andres de Larrainzar and San Cayetano, there is a convoy of 10 Mexican Army vehicles that is carrying out detailed patrols in the mountain areas starting today due to the possibility that Zapatists might be camouflaged among the dense vegetation. [passage omitted]

Zapatist Communique States Willingness To Continue Struggle

PA1302041095 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 13 Feb 95

[Report by Juan Carlos Santollo; from the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] I have a lengthy communique, but I will summarize the main points. The communique explains point by point what is supposedly taking place and the reasons why this military offensive has been launched.

There are several parts of the communique, which adds that the Zapatists are willing to continue with this struggle, but there are also several sections where they mention their willingness to reestablish the political dialogue.

It is worth noting that this communique by the leadership of the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] does not indicate whether Subcommander Marcos is alive, but there are sections of the communique mentioning this figure, who has become well-known because of his ski mask. He is still a mystery, but no mention is made as to whether this EZLN leader is alive.

A few minutes ago here in the San Cristobal de las Casas Cathedral, Bishop Samuel Ruiz officiated a mass that can be described as quite political, particularly because he once again urged a dialogue and peace.

Ruiz said peace at this time is an arduous struggle that must be accomplished, because those who suffer the most from war and desperation are the impoverished:

[Begin Ruiz recording] It is true, brothers and sisters, we are all involved in this quest for peace. Peace is a gift from God, because peace is something the world cannot give, and peace is something to which all Christians aspire. Peace is an accomplishment, the result of arduous work, dedication, action, and charity, which is put into effect to reconcile, unify, and work together. In light of the evangelical words to which we have just listened, it is a fact that if there is anyone that suffers the most in the attainment of peace, it is the poor. They, the poor, are the ones who always pay the greatest toll so peace can prevail. [end recording]

As you heard, Bishop Samuel Ruiz' voice was broken with emotion, and he said once again the fundamental struggle is to achieve peace at this time. He also said there must be another attempt to ensure a dialogue, based on other conditions.

EZLN Issues Communiques on 'War Against Our Peoples'

PA1302043195 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 13 Feb 95

[Report by Juan C. Sentoyo from San Cristobal de las Casas and announcer Pepe Cardenas; from the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Sentoyo] These communiques received here in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, have caused a great upheaval. Although we know these handwritten communiques were received without the signature of Subcommander Marcos, we cannot say whether they are authentic. Nevertheless, they were received today and are dated 11 February 1995 and issued in Chiapas, Mexico:

To the Mexican people, national and international journalists, the Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN]. We call on all our Mexican brothers to halt this war the bad government is waging against us. The federal government is acting with lies, states this communique, which, I repeat, is not signed by Subcommander Marcos.

[Cardenas] You said it is handwritten?

[Sentoyo] It is completely handwritten, which is not to what we are accustomed. They were always typed or printed by computer. I will continue: The government is acting with lies and is waging a dirty war against our peoples. Four helicopters bombed the area around Morelia and La Garrucha at noon yesterday. This statement, Pepe, has not been confirmed and was denied by the Mexican Army and by local inhabitants. These places under Zapatist control were strafed by machine-gun fire. On this point, and in order to continue making clarifications by the Mexican Army and by local inhabitants, there have been no heavy clashes up to now, much less attacks on Indian peoples, particularly because many of those Indian villages were forced to move out.

The communique continues: Thousands of federal soldiers have penetrated the jungle through Monte Libano, (Aguasazul), Santa Lucia, La Carrucha, Chiampas, San Agustin, Guadalupe Tepeyac, and other places. They are laying a siege of death and dirt.

The communique adds: We, Zapatists, troops, and civilians, have done everything in our power up to now to fall back, but we have been left no other option than to defend ourselves and to defend our peoples as well as the thousands of civilians who have been displaced from their homes. Brothers, the government of Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon, the communique states, is plotting a war, a difficult war. We ask the people of Mexico and the people of the world to do something to halt this war. Again, brothers, we ask that you not leave us alone. We will act with dignity, liberty, justice, and democracy.

Fraternally, the Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the EZLN.

Chiapas Rebel Governor Resorts to Amparo; PRD Demands Peace

PA1302044995 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 13 Feb 95

[Report by Ruth Lopez Betanzos from the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] As a guest at the PRD [Democratic Party of the Revolution] meeting to evaluate the fourth phase of the civil disobedience under way in 400 towns in Tabasco, the Chiapas rebel transition governor, Amado Avendano, said he is being persecuted and thus resorted to an amparo. He said he is awaiting the execution of the arrest warrant against him so as to see how the people react.

Avendano said leaders from various organizations have disappeared over the past few days:

[Begin Avendano recording] We have been directly suffering the consequences of war since 9 February. Several peasant and social organization leaders have already been detained and are missing. Even I, the rebel transition governor, am a fugitive of the law, because I am being persecuted for crimes invented by the Secretariat of National Defense and by the government. Although it might seem paradoxical, the struggle taking place in Chiapas is tremendously disadvantageous for federal troops, who are being sent to die in a region that is unknown to them, in an adverse atmosphere, and to wage a struggle that is not theirs. [end recording]

Avendano added he will begin a march in northern Chiapas on 20 February that will pass through Tabasco and end up in Mexico City. He said the demonstrators will demand peace in Chiapas. Avendano said he has not received objective information of events in the conflict zone, because there is no access to newspapers. What we know, Avendano said, is that airplanes are taking the wounded to hospitals in Comitan de las Flores and Tuxtla Gutierrez, capital of Chiapas.

Also at the PRD meeting today, PRD President Porfirio Munoz Ledo said that his party is demanding peace, that leaders should not be told anymore lies, and that a national negotiations table should be established:

[Begin Munoz Ledo recording] A national negotiations table should be established to examine all the electoral processes in the republic within a framework of justice, legality, and equality. We are demanding a definitive electoral reform, not a democratic state reform. [end recording]

Munoz Ledo also warned that the demonstrations will continue until the conflicts in Chiapas and Tabasco are resolved in a dignified manner, adding that government officials, such as Manuel Camacho Solis, have met more frequently with Marcos than members of the PRD.

Meanwhile, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, the PRD's gubernatorial candidate in Tabasco, announced the fifth phase of his civil resistance movement, which includes municipal demonstrations and the refusal to pay taxes and for electricity and water. Lopez Obrador announced that Tabasco's PRD members will join the party's members in Chiapas on 20 February to march together to Mexico City and to gather at the Mexico City Square, where they will stage an indefinite demonstration on 25 February.

Incidentally, I must add that PRD and PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] members at (?the negotiations table in Teapa) have agreed on the need to create a fourth electoral power in order to overcome the postelectoral crisis in Tabasco.

General Cited on Military Search Operations

PA1302051395 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 13 Feb 95

[From the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been reported from Guadalupe Tepeyac that the Mexican Army has turned over to the Attorney General's Office in Tuxtla Gutierrez two American citizens named (Robert Trerner) and Ruben Cardoso, who when unable to prove their legal status in Mexico showed press credentials allegedly supplied by the so-called transition rebel government headed by Amado Avendano Figueroa.

General Roman Arrieta Hurtado, head of the paratroop corps of the National Defense Secretariat, has said the alleged journalists received credentials issued by Amado Avendado, former PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] Chiapas gubernatorial candidate. The arrested men are from Massachusetts and New York and will have to clarify their stay in the country before the appropriate authorities.

The alleged journalists were detected during the peaceful takeover on 10 February of Guadalupe Tepeyac, where the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] had its general headquarters. The village is uninhabited, because residents have abandoned the place out of fear of possible clashes or reprisals. The inhabitants were interviewed by NOTIMEX and certain national and foreign news media.

Mexican Army soldiers under the command of Arrieta Hurtado also accuse Katherine Harmann, representative of the International Red Cross Committee, of meddling in national affairs. They have explained that the representative hampered military operations and the restoration of public order by instilling fear over the presence of the Mexican Army among the 2,000 or so inhabitants who sought refuge in the (Raldeli) Hospital, near Guadalupe Tepeyac. Likewise, they have criticized the submissive attitude of the medical personnel who asked Katherine Harmann's authorization for everything they did, as if she were the authority in Guadalupe Tepeyac. The International Red Cross delegate has departed this village together with the medical corps and helpers of the Mexican Social Security Institute.

Discussing military operations in the area, Arrieta has said they began on 10 February when the paratrooper corps arrived on board several helicopters in what was once the EZLN's main bastion in search of law offenders. He said they will soon enter communities near Lacandona Jungle in search of Rafael Sebastian Guillen Vicente, alias Marcos. An arrest warrant has been issued for various penal crimes, such as sedition, rebellion, and terrorism.

It should be noted that during our arrival in Guadalupe Tepeyac, the people's individual rights have been respected at all times, and there were no confrontations as certain media have stated in view that there was no resistance by any armed group, the officer has said. He also gave assurances the area situation is uncertain but calm, because no law offenders have been found around the village. Nevertheless, he has said, we will continue with the search once we are authorized to advance.

While the Mexican troops enter deep into the heart of Lacandona Jungle in search of the rebels, human rights defense groups express the fear the Army may carry out a major offensive against the EZLN. Dozens of peasants have fled the area fearful over the possibility of renewed fighting between government troops and rebels despite government assurances it is taking every possible precaution to avoid confrontation or acts of violence.

Military barricades are preventing the entry of medical supplies and food to the impoverished Indian peasant hamlets. Human rights watchers or journalists cannot enter either.

Fears increased over the weekend in the isolated village of Nueva Providencia, where helicopters landed and troops patrolled the jungle areas that had been rebel territory during most of 1994.

Attorney General's Office Denies Bombings in Chiapas

PA1302052295 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0347 GMT 13 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 12 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The Office of the Attorney General of the Republic (PGR) categorically denied today that Mexican troops have bombed areas near Morelia and La Garrucha in southeastern Chiapas State. The PGR also denied having violated human rights during operations to execute the arrest warrants issued against members of the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN).

In a communique, the PGR pointed out the falsehood of statements published today in a message by the Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee [CCRI] of the EZLN that included complaints of aerial attacks and the murder of women and children.

The following is the full text of the PGR communique:

Mexico City, 12 February 1995

Bulletin No. 165/95

A communique allegedly released by the CCRI of the EZLN was circulated today, stating that helicopters are bombing areas near the towns of Morelia and La Garrucha in Chiapas State. It also states "children are being murdered and women are being beaten."

The PGR, which is in charge of executing the arrest warrants issued by the first district judge in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, categorically denies this information and states the report is totally false.

The actions that are being executed in fulfillment of the judicial mandate have been conducted within the framework of legality and in strict observance of human rights.

The PGR publicly discloses that representatives from various news media toured the conflict zone in a helicopter today and were able to confirm the patrols were conducted without any confrontations. Tours such as this will continue throughout the next few days.

Government Announces Recovery of Full Control in Chiapas

PA1302053395 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0516 GMT 13 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 12 Feb (DPA)—The Mexican Government announced today it has recovered full control of the area previously controlled by the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) in the southern state of Chiapas.

"The Government Secretariat reports that the authorities in charge of justice have peacefully restored their full presence in the area of Chiapas, where the federal government had been absent for almost 14 months," stated a communique issued by the Government Secretariat tonight.

According to the communique, "the actions to restore the de jure system" have been carried out with order. "There have been only two regrettable incidents," the text stated without giving any additional details.

"In less than 72 hours, the Attorney General's Office and the Mexican Army have completed their installation in towns considered indispensable to guarantee the restoration of the de jure system," the communique stated and at the same time urged EZLN members "to make effective their intention to seek the protection of the Amnesty Law the federal executive branch will promote before the Congress of the Union."

In addition, it was reported the thousands of Chiapas inhabitants who were displaced by the armed conflict will be able to return to their homes soon.

Chiapas Governor, Party Leaders React to Zedillo Decision

PA1002161595 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 10 Feb 95

[From the "Early Morning" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] In Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Governor Eduardo Robledo Rincon has voiced his support for the federal government's decision. Robledo said he will help ensure this action will establish calm and harmony in the state.

In a communique, the state government said this action does not rule out political means to resolve problems and differences among Chiapas residents. It added that the decision should serve to fully restore constitutional order in Chiapas.

The state leader urged Chiapas residents to remain prudent and calm to restore constitutional order through legal means. He pointed out that the social cost has been high. Therefore, today more than ever, Chiapas must maintain its determination and unity to achieve real reconciliation and harmony.

Meanwhile, the opposition parties—namely, the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] and PAN [National Action Party]—reacted to this decision. PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] national leader Maria de los Angeles Moreno also issued a statement yesterday.

The PRD asked the government to not use the Armed Forces for the time being, while the PAN and PRI supported the presidential position and decision. The leaders of the three main political parites voiced their position on President Zedillo's message.

[Begin recording] [PRD leader Porfirio Munoz Ledo] We advocate a return to political action and do not want anyone to yield to the temptation of using force. Grave situations require reflection. It is unacceptable for the authorities to make a statement if the possible consequences are not weighed. We fully support the dominance of civilian authority and republican institutions over military actions. We call for an immediate resumption of a dialogue characterized by imagination, talent, and determination to find solutions.

[PAN leader Carlos Castillo] It was correct for the president of the republic to reaffirm his determination to find political, social, and economic solutions to the causes of the conflict. He also reaffirmed his determination to preserve constitutional order, and he supported legal and peaceful means to resolve the historical problems facing Chiapas residents and all Mexicans.

3. [number as heard] It is extremely important that, in an effort to ensure constitutional order, subsequent investigations be conducted and arrest warrants be handed out in strict compliance with the law and with respect for human rights.

4. We recognize as appropriate the president's decision to not turn his message into a declaration of war but, instead, into a renewed invitation to choose political paths.

5. PAN legislators will study a possible amnesty bill for those who took up arms but have decided to lay them down as an efficient reconciliation instrument.

[PRI leader Maria de los Angeles Moreno] We first want to emphasize that the position of the government of the republic has always been characterized by dialogue, conciliation, open-mindedness, and tolerance. It has sought solutions to reach a dignified and lasting peace in Chiapas and to restore harmony not only in that state of the republic, but also in the entire country.

On several occasions the president of the republic himself has reiterated his decision to achieve harmony and find peaceful means and, of course, to meet social needs and the just demands many of our compatriots are making in the southeastern area of the republic, particularly in Chiapas.

He said this determination to establish a dialogue, achieve harmony, and implement programs contributes to improving social conditions. The president added that despite repeated and diverse efforts—including a visit with and a dialogue between the government secretary and EZLN [Zapatist Army of National Liberation] leaders and the acceptance of the Conai [National Mediation Commission], as well as other efforts you all know about—powerful weapons were found yesterday here in the city as well as in Veracruz State. Also, some of those who have led violent protests were identified. [end recording]

Conai Urges Government, EZLN To Resume Talks

PA1102171795 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0528 GMT 11 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] San Cristobal de las Casas, 10 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The independent National Mediation Commission (Conai) has asked both sides in the conflict in the southeastern Mexican state of Chiapas to resume negotiations in search of a political solution to the problem.

The Conai asked the government and the armed group to stop searching for "military solutions" and to return to the negotiating table to find a political solution to the conflict, the Conai stated in a communique.

The document was read during a news conference in San Cristobal de las Casas, located 1,200 km southeast of Mexico City, by Samuel Ruiz, the Conai president and bishop of that Chiapas town, and by a Conai member, Raymundo Sanchez Barraza.

The appeal was made one day after the Mexican Government ordered the arrest of identified members of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] in view of evidence that the armed group was preparing to unleash new acts of violence in the country.

The arrest of the EZLN leaders is being carried out in the conflict zone by federal police with the support of the Mexican Army.

During the reading of the document, the Conai reiterated its call on all political and social forces in Chiapas and the country to stop "the war with urgent actions," which were unspecified.

The Conai expressed its concern "because this atmosphere of tension could lead to indiscriminate acts of violence against the civilian population" and asked for the respect of the "physical integrity" of an alleged EZLN leader arrested this Friday.

Jorge Santiago Santiago is known in the Chiapas town of Teopisca, where he was arrested, "for his dedication to development projects," according to the Conai, which was accepted earlier this year as mediator for a possible dialogue between the government and the EZLN.

Sources close to the Conai said the organization could disappear in view of the new circumstances in Chiapas following the arrest warrants issued for EZLN leaders, which could render their participation as mediators "inoperative."

The Conai promoted the first meeting between representatives of the Zedillo administration and EZLN leaders in the conflict zone on 16 January. [passage omitted]

PRD Leaders Ask EZLN, Government To Restore Dialogue

PA1102132895 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 0320 GMT 11 Feb 95

[Report by Eduardo Blancas; from the "Facts" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuauhtemoc Cardenas has called on the government and the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] to restore a dialogue in Chiapas, saying everyone will have to make an effort to achieve a truce.

The Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD] flatly denies the participation of its members in rebel groups, according to Jesus Ortega, the coordinator of the PRD faction at the Chamber of Deputies.

Moreover, PRD Senator Porfirio Munoz Ledo spoke about the situation in Chiapas.

[Begin Munoz recording] We insist that the law has been violated. Instead of investigating political crimes as soon as possible, attention has intentionally been drawn toward Chiapas. [end recording]

Cuauhtemoc Cardenas also gave his opinion.

[Begin Cardenas recording] We all have to make an effort to restore the truce which has been unilaterally broken. We hope a dialogue can be resumed so that we can have peace in the country. [end recording]

The PRD leadership also said that weapons are not the proper solution to the conflict in Chiapas.

PRD-Led Demonstrators Oppose Zedillo Measures in Chiapas

PA1202173895 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 12 Feb 95

[From the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] A large crowd gathered at El Zocalo in Mexico City yesterday to listen to Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, Porfirio Munoz Ledo, and leaders of the National Executive Committee of the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] speak against Dr. Zedillo's law enforcement actions in Chiapas State and to ask for a political, not forceful, solution to the situation in Chiapas.

The meeting headed by Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, Porfirio Munoz Ledo, and Rosario Ibarra de Piedra started at 1640 sharp. The march was scheduled to leave from the Angel of Independence, but in view of the crowd's size, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas started the march at the intersection of Insurgentes and Reforma Avenues. After having marched for about one and one-half hours, this group of marchers arrived in the capital city's El Zocalo at 1805. El Zocalo was truly packed, and people continued to arrive after the meeting had virtually ended at 2000.

There were many speakers. Among them were Mr. Jose Narro of the PT [Labor Party], Mrs. Rosario Ibarra de Piedra, Porfirio Munoz Ledo, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, and finally, Mrs. Ofelia Medina. Someone who really caught our attention was PRD Deputy Salvador Martinez de la Roca, who pointed out the PRD parliamentary bloc will request the dismissal of Attorney General Lozano Gracia tomorrow. He said they also will ask the School of Philosophy and Humanities of UNAM [National Autonomous University of Mexico] to grant Subcommander Marcos an honorary doctorate. The PRD pointed out he is an example for the young and an example of how things should be done in this country, because the government often fails to meet society's demands.

Cuauhtemoc Cardenas said there must be peace in Chiapas—a negotiated peace, a peace achieved through dialogue, and not peace achieved through the use of weapons. The PRD believes President Zedillo turned against peace negotiations. Here is Cardenas:

[Begin Cardenas recording] Peace in Chiapas is peace for the entire republic. We must apply pressure to [word indistinct] through all means at our disposal: demonstrations, written documents, [word indistinct]. We must make this government realize that, if we filled Constitution Square today, and should the government insist on following this disastrous path, we will time and again fill this square and become increasingly more active and more combative to end this government, which is doing nothing more than leading to loss of lives, undermining our economy, and [words indistinct] progress. [end recording]

Cardenas pointed out problems will be resolved in Mexico only through dialogue. He said the people can tolerate no more violence, and, as we heard him say, they will fill El Zocalo in the capital time and again in order to repudiate government actions. Cardenas also pointed out only a dignified peace and genuine democracy will allow all Mexicans to benefit. He also said they do not know whether the names revealed by the government and the picture of Subcommander Marcos are genuine, because Cardenas pointed out they did not see Subcommander Marcos' face when they visited Chiapas. He said they do not fully believe the people who were presented are the leaders of the Zapatist Army, as claimed.

Actress Ofelia Medina said government criticism of the involvement of Bishop Samuel Ruiz in Chiapas should be repudiated at all costs. She pointed out that, although Ruiz knew of the existence of the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army], this does not constitute a crime. Medina added that Ruiz had urged them to seek peace on many occasions, but realized the authorities and local governments did nothing for the people, for Chiapas residents, or for Chiapas Indians.

There were shouts of: We are all Marcoses, and Marcoses do not budge, we are behind you. I think hundreds and thousands of Mexicans—many were not from the PRD—supported this march for peace and negotiation. They do not want more bloodshed.

Democratic National Convention Urges Society To Demonstrate

PA1002231995 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1900 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mexico City, 10 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Today, the Democratic National Convention (CND) urged society to demonstrate in this capital, which is the site of permanent patrols, to demand that the alleged members of the armed group operating in Chiapas be presented.

In a communique, the CND, which held its first meeting in August, condemned the accusations made by the Attorney General's Office against the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) on 9 February.

"Government participation in this case does nothing more than reflect the imposition of its privileges through forceful means, thus jeopardizing the country's integrity," the CND document stated. [passage omitted]

On the discovery of arsenals in the eastern state of Veracruz and the Mexican capital, the CND stated "that matter does not justify involving the Mexican people in the violence and bloodshed."

"Those of us who understand the causes of the armed uprising remember the tragicomedy of other criminal investigations that were not resolved due to government cover-ups," the communique added.

Capital city police authorities are implementing "permanent patrols" at key points with an emphasis on petroleum and electricity facilities, Federal District Attorney General Juan Antonio Gonzalez Fernandez has said.

When interviewed at a Mexican Air Force commemoration, the official said the operation, which is being carried out in coordination with the Roads and Safety Secretariat and the Attorney General's Office, was agreed upon on 9 February.

The measure was adopted after the discovery "of two clandestine weapons caches belonging to the armed group in the state of Veracruz and Mexico City" and the arrest of several members, he has said.

The intersectorial operation will ensure the security of political headquarters, shopping centers, movie houses, and other capital city public places. In addition, members of the Judicial Police are ready to react to any possible abnormal situation, he added.

Gonzalez Fernandez urged the people to carry on with their daily chores with peacefulness and calm, because there is security and because there have been no reports on disturbances. [passage omitted]

Urges Peaceful Resolution

PA1202015495 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 2030 GMT 11 Feb 95

[Report by Marisela Palacios; from the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Members of the Democratic National Convention [CND] have demanded that President Zedillo's decision on the Chiapas conflict not be used as an excuse to begin a witch-hunt against people who have always struggled for Indian rights.

Upon establishing a permanent session at the Mexico City Square to examine the events in Chiapas, Jose Narro Cespedes, a member of the National Coordinating Board for the Ayala Plan and the CND, expressed concern over the arrest warrants issued against members of the Ayala Plan:

[Begin Narro recording] It is worrisome for us, because this matter could be a witch-hunt against comrades involved in the struggles for the people, the Mexican people, laborers, peasants, [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Narro has said the CND is calling for a peaceful resolution to the Chiapas conflict, adding the multiple legislative commission must go, because it has not played an important or effective role in the pacification process.

El Salvador

Calderon Sol on Interim Trade Program To Offset NAFTA

PA1102001595 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 9 Feb 95 p A-15

[FBIS Translated Text] President Armando Calderon Sol has been designated the "standard bearer" to urge the administration of Bill Clinton to comply with the promises of granting the Caribbean basin region trade parity vis-a-vis NAFTA.

According to figures of the governments covered by the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), they are at a disadvantage compared to Mexico, which has benefited from NAFTA, because it does not have to pay duties on 80 percent of its exports to the United States, and there is no quota restricting the amount of its exports to that market.

Calderon Sol, who inaugurated yesterday the Fifth Fair of the Garment and Textile Industry, which is being held in El Salvador for the first time, said "all the Central American and Caribbean Basin countries have requested an interim trade program to offset the disadvantageous situation in which we have been left due to NAFTA."

The president added he is certain "our North American friends will support our initiative to obtain an equitable commercial treatment, particularly for the garment and textile industry."

The president said that during his recent visit to Central America, the Canadian prime minister "expressed to the regional presidents his agreement with the Interim Trade Program. On that occasion, he said if the United States approves it, Canada would also approve a similar treatment for the region's products."

Francisco Escobar Thompson, president of the Central American and Caribbean Garment Industry Council, has said there is support from the U.S. House and Senate but not from the Clinton administration despite the pledge he has made to the Central American presidents, a pledge which was reiterated by Vice President Al Gore during a visit to Nicaragua last July.

The first attempt to obtain parity between the countries of the Caribbean basin and Mexico, which has greatly benefited from the signing of NAFTA, which has eliminated restrictions on the entry of its products to the North America market, was through the Interim Trade Program supported by the U.S. Government. That law was eliminated to obtain rapid approval of entry into GATT.

Escobar Thompson has said the Parity Law was presented to Congress with the support of Congressman Sam Gibbons, but it was taken out by the Clinton administration just as it happened with the previous attempt, because it feared it would be an obstacle for NAFTA's approval.

This attempt will be the third one to obtain parity in exports to the United States.

According to Escobar's explanation, Congressman Phillip Crane's bill is in Congress as a result of a joint effort by Democrats and Republicans and is being analyzed for the time being.

He added Senator Graham will introduce today (8 February) or tomorrow another bill that is practically the same as Congressman Crane's.

This new step is positive, he added, because the two chambers are becoming aware of the problems faced by the Caribbean basin countries. As a result, they are waiting for "the Clinton administration to give its approval or to have a conference to reach agreement, along with the administration, before voting on the bill."

For the president of the garment council, the fact the two chambers are discussing a bill requesting trade parity for Central America and the Caribbean means "we are advancing."

The fact both the U.S. Congress and Senate are willing to study the problem is good, because it is felt there is a commitment, not by the administration but by the people, he added.

Escobar Thompson has said "at the end of the year, this new law might enter into force at the beginning of 1996" if it is approved, as it should be.

"If things continue as they are now, with production amounting to $400 million, we estimate we should be producing close to $1 billion in exports" by the year 2000, Escobar Thompson has said.

Government Concerned About U.S. Measures Against Immigrants

PA1102231295 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Feb 95

[Report by Maria Teresa Fajardo; from the "YSU Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Salvadoran Government is concerned about the measures the U.S. Government is ordering against immigrants in general, Salvadoran Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Manuel Lagos has said. There are reports from Salvadoran consulates stating that Salvadorans are finding it difficult to legalize their status to continue living in the United States. In view of this problem, the executive branch, in coordination with the Foreign Ministry, has initiated a plan to install a legal assistance office that has already produced excellent results, the official has said:

[Begin Lagos recording] We understand some of the reasons that may concern certain U.S. sectors, but we do not agree with the solutions they are proposing. Many sectors within the United States itself have also stated this point. I am talking about the latest announcement made by President Bill Clinton who has revealed budget plans for next year; that is, 1996. It is a process still under discussion in the U.S. Congress.

A series of measures to increase the budget in various programs has been implemented. We believe what we cannot allow is the magnification of the problem even though they may accept illegal Salvadoran immigrants in the United States. We have received reports from our consulates stating this series of announcements is having a psychological effect that could even create panic among Hispanic communities themselves. The [words indistinct], for example, Proposition 187, which is frozen in California courts. It is a proposition that will not pass according to the reports we have. [end recording]

The Foreign Ministry is working on other projects that will contribute to the minimization of the effects of the measures the U.S. Government is determined to carry out in order to reduce the problem of illegal immigration, the Foreign Ministry official has said:

[Begin Lagos recording] We are asking our fellow citizens to go to the Salvadoran consulates to try to legalize their situation. The problem is not immigration but, rather, illegal immigration and illegal residency. As in any country, having an illegal status could bring you problems. The Salvadoran Government has initiated the implementation of a plan President Armando Calderon Sol himself has been personally working on. He is interested in the creation of a legal assistance office in our consulates. The one in our embassy in Washington has yielded positive results. We already have the cooperation of many volunteers who are going out to the embassy to help out and to help inform our fellow citizens about the ways to legalize their situation. The office has already been created and is up and running. It is booked until April according to the latest reports we have. We are now trying to open it for longer hours. [end recording]

In addition, Lagos has also said the work done by the binational commission is progressing in helping find solutions to the problems of citizens living in border regions and who have not yet determined their nationality. He did not give us additional details on this matter, because the legal framework that should be drafted by the legal commission has not been finished yet, he has said.

Spanish Prime Minister Continues Visit

LD1302101095 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 0700 GMT 13 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez is continuing his official visit to El Salvador. [passage omitted] Good morning, special correspondent Pedro Fernandez Cespedes.

[Fernandez Cespedes] [passage omitted] In the last few hours, the prime minister experienced the most moving of all the engagements on the agenda of his visit to El Salvador. He paid tribute to the six Jesuits—five of them Spaniards—murdered in November 1989, touring the house where they lived on the campus of the Central American University, visiting the spot where they died, and marking a few minutes' silence at the graves of the six Jesuits in a chapel dedicated to Msgr Romero. He had emotional words for them and he recalled his personal, political experience of the El Salvador conflict going back to before 1980.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] And I cannot but think, if you will allow me, that 19 November 1989 was the turning point, therefore, I cannot but think that the sacrifice was not in vain. I believe that something moved this society deeply, through and through, at that time. I believe that that great upheaval brought a desire for peace in many. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Madrid Teletexto TVE in Spanish at 0800 GMT on 13 February adds: "Felipe Gonzalez voiced his satisfaction 'at being able to witness the celebration of peace and reconciliation' in El Salvador and he promised to maintain Spain's support for this country.

["Gonzalez held talks with President Armando Calderon, who asked for Spain's collaboration in the peace process in El Salvador, describing it as 'vital'."]

Guatemala

President Puts Army on Maximum Alert on Mexican Border

PA1202014495 Mexico City Radio Red Network in Spanish 0050 GMT 12 Feb 95

[Report by Ramon Hernandez]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Unidentified announcer] Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio made an important announcement. He said the Guatemalan Army is guarding the border with Mexico effective this evening. He said he made this decision following a telephone conversation with President Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon.

We have a report from Guatemala City by Ramon Hernandez. We are listening to you, Ramon.

[Hernandez] President De Leon Carpio said a few minutes ago the Guatemalan Army is on maximum alert; thus, most troops in military areas along the border with Mexico will be guarding the border area effective tonight to prevent the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] from entering Guatemalan territory as promised to President Zedillo:

[Begin De Leon Carpio recording] [Words indistinct] Zedillo of Mexico and immediately offered our cooperation regarding the Guatemalan Army and our border so that they will not cross our border. We have coordinated this action with the Mexican Army for a total coverage. Through General Gonzalez Paracena, chief of staff for defense, I ordered the troops to be on alert telling them to go to their pertinent military zones to strengthen and reinforce our Army's coverage of those areas. [end recording]

According to the Guatemalan Army's state of alert, all leaves for troops on the border with Mexico have been canceled, as confirmed through calls by parents who expressed concern over the decision by the armed institution; it was said, however, it is aimed at preserving the security of the Guatemalan territory.

Nicaragua

Government Authorizes Meeting With U.S. Citizen's Kidnapper

PA1102222095 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 11 Feb 95 pp 1, 8

[Report by Vladimir Lopez]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has authorized CIAV-0AS [International Support and Verification Commission] officials to travel to Bocay to meet with recontra leader "El Charrito," who has made this demand after kidnapping U.S. citizen Gary Alan Hicks. This demand was revealed by Hick's wife, Mrs. Raquel Lopez, who added CIAV officials have said they would leave in the next few hours (10 February) or early tomorrow (11 February).

A U.S. Embassy spokesman in Managua has confirmed "El Charrito" kidnapped Gary Alan Hicks, along with five other people, four Sumu Indians and an English woman, at about 0900 on 9 February as they were sailing the Bocay River, Jinotega.

"A so-called Commander 'Charrito,' claiming to be a staff member of the 3-80 Northern Front, claimed responsibility for the kidnapping and requested the CIAV-OAS presence there," the U.S. Embassy spokesman added. He added the embassy is making the necessary contacts with officials of the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, the government, and the CIAV-OAS to rescue Mr. Gary Alan Hicks.

Meanwhile, Victor Campos, representative of the nongovernmental organization Humbolt [expansion unknown], of which Hicks is a member, has said the rearmed detained six people and freed five later "but has retained Gary and then sent a letter to the authorities."

He added the letter from "El Charrito'" requested the presence of a CIAV-OAS commission, human rights organizations, and members of Cardinal Obando y Bravo's commission to start negotiations." [no closing quotation mark as published]

Campos has said the people traveling with the U.S. citizen who were freed by the recontras were: Vicente Bucardo, Doroteo Cardenal, Victor Pineda, and Alberto Lopez, all of whom are citizens of Sumu origin, and English citizen Sarah Howart.

Who Was the Kidnappee?

Gary Alan Hicks hails from Los Angeles, the United States, is 50 years old, and is married to Nicaraguan Raquel Lopez.

He is the coordinator for a social project aimed at the Sumu community in Bocay, Rio Coco, which is financed by nongovernmental international organizations to help build houses and a health center.

Although he spends most of his time in San Jose de Bocay, he also lives in a residence in Jinotepe, located near the Santiago regional hospital.

Recontras Release Kidnapped U.S. Citizen

PA1202181795 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1705 GMT 12 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Managua, 12 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—U.S. citizen Gary Alan Hicks has been released by the group of armed "recontras" that kidnapped him on Thursday, local radio stations reported today, citing members of his family.

Hicks, who has lived in Nicaragua since 1986, was kidnapped Thursday by a group of "recontras" led by Ciriaco Palacios, alias "Charro," along with British citizen Sara Howard and five Nicaraguan Miskito Indians in Ayapal in the country's northern region.

Among the seven kidnapped individuals, the "recontras" kept Hicks after freeing the Indians and Sara Howard with a letter to be delivered to an OAS organization.

Hicks' wife, Nicaraguan citizen Raquel Lopez Obando, told Radio Corporacion in Managua that "Charro" turned her husband over to a special commission that traveled to San Jose del Bocay, Jinotega Department, which borders on Honduras.

Nicaraguan Army sources have not officially reported the release. Hicks, Howard, and the Miskito Indians are part of a group that works for the protection and preservation of the Bosawas forest reserve.

Army Chief Denies Links to Mexican Rebel Leader

PA1102174395 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 11 Feb 95

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] General Humberto Ortega, chief of the Nicaraguan Army, has denied any links between his country's armed forces and the guerrilla training received by Subcommander Marcos [Rafael Sebastian Guillen Vicente], chief of Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN]. But, is it possible that Marcos received training in Nicaragua on a personal basis?

[Begin Ortega recording] We do not know that. What we know comes from reports from the Mexican media. If the Mexican authorities are just now revealing who Marcos is, we here in Nicaragua can hardly be expected to know who he is, nor can other people outside Mexico for that matter.

I repeat, the Nicaraguan Army has trained no one. The fact, however, that people from different countries, such as Mexico, were here in Nicaragua during the anti-Somoza struggle is something else. That is totally possible, but claims that the Nicaraguan Army is linked to developments in Chiapas are complete lies. [end recording]

Gen. Ortega said that, should Mexico make a request, the Nicaraguan Army would investigate the activities of Rafael Sebastian Guillen Vicente.

Court Views Relations With Legislature

95P20488A

[FBIS Editorial Report] Managua LA TRIBUNA in Spanish of 25 Jan 1995 on page 3A reports that relations between the Supreme Court and the National Assembly are being "affected" by the Assembly's delay in appointing two justices to the court. The lack of a quorum in the Supreme Court "is made worse" when one of the justices has to leave the country, according to the article. With regard to the constitutional reforms proposed by the Assembly, Supreme Court President Orlando Trejos said that the Court wants the right to appoint appeals court magistrates. The reform to the constitution provides for the Assembly to elect candidates nominated by the Supreme Court justices. In addition, the justices wish to be appointed for life instead of 7 years, as the reforms provide.

Panama

District Attorney Rejects U.S. Indictment in Hernandez Case

PA1202185295 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 12 Feb 95 p A-1

[Report by unidentified Washington-based correspondent and Arnulfo Barroso]

[FBIS Translated Text] A District of Columbia court has issued an "indictment" [previous word in English] against Panamanians Pedro Miguel Gonzalez and Roberto Garrido, who are facing five charges in connection with the murder of U.S. soldier Zak Hernandez, and who are charged with attempting to kill Ronald Marshall and Jeffrey Moore, a Justice Department spokesman has announced in Washington.

The case is not new, the source added, because the opening of the indictment dates back to 23 July 1992, when a grand jury decided to open Criminal Case No. 92-0397.

Gonzalez and Garrido are accused of having fired at the occupants of a U.S. Army military vehicle near the Panamanian town of Chilibre on 10 June 1992. The attack occurred on the eve of former U.S. President George Bush's visit to Panama.

The "indictment" states Gonzalez and Garrido sought refuge in the Dominican Republic. The United States offered a reward of several thousand dollars for the arrest of the two indicted persons, but to no avail.

Meanwhile in Panama, District Attorney Dimas Guevara, who is in charge of investigating the Hernandez case, warned that Panama is a sovereign country empowered to investigate any indicted individual in keeping with its laws, as well as to determine whether this person is in any way responsible for the crime of which he is accused, without meddling from other countries.

Guevara told EL PANAMA AMERICA yesterday he is unaware of any case in Panamanian legal history similar to that of Gonzalez and Garrido.

He pointed out the investigations being conducted by his office are currently at the phase of collecting evidence and accepting witnesses.

Meanwhile, Gonzalez's defense attorney, Carlos Carrillo, asserted that his client is "innocent" and, in view of the large amount of evidence he plans to present, the United States will have to rescind any indictment and Panamanian authorities will have to order his release.

Carrillo said he presented eight witnesses that placed Pedro Miguel Gonzalez far away from the scene of the crime of which he is charged, and he added that there are video clips that could help establish this.

Pedro Miguel Gonzalez, the son of Gerardo Gonzalez, the president of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), surrendered to Panamanian authorities in late January.

President Ernesto Perez Balladares himself anonunced the surrender and stressed the need to guarantee Gonzalez's safety and to subject him to appropriate legal processes. Pedro Miguel Gonzalez, who is still being held, has proclaimed his innocence.

Editorial Opposes Postponing Delivery of Canal Assets

PA1202192695 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Feb 95 p A-4

[Editorial: "Proposed Delay on Reversion of Properties"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Recent public statements by U.S. Southern Command chief General Barry McCaffrey, saying that Panamanians are not ready to receive the assets to be reverted to Panama under the terms of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, seem to have awakened some national sectors traditionally passive on matters pertaining the Panama Canal. In a way, however, no one can deny the truth of McCaffrey's statements.

There is evidence that there have been serious difficulties. The situation, however, no matter how serious, is not a powerful reason to nonchalantly request that the delivery of Panama Canal properties to our government be postponed.

That possibility would seriously jeopardize Panama's position in relation to the Canal Treaties.

We cannot irresponsibly not comply with the clauses in those contractual documents, which stipulate dates for the delivery of these properties.

By the same token, recent controversies concerning control within the Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI) and the current condition of the Panama Railroad and the former School of the Americas should not be a reason to think or act this way. It would be useless to try to determine who is responsible for failing to have properly organized the institution that will manage the Panama Canal Administration and its properties.

Seeking the easy way out by postponing the deliveries should never be the criteria of our government or belligerent national sectors. Panama has many enemies in the U.S. Congress. An action of this nature could prevent the final transfer of the Canal's administration to Panama on 31 December 1999.

Within the context of the various forces we are currently facing, Panama should never show an inability or unwillingness to gradually receive each and every asset that, according to the treaties, must be reverted to us.

Only a few days ago, we commented on the lack of maturity Panamanians seem to be showing regarding our responsibility to judiciously manage the assets that will be reverted to our country. On that occasion, we urged all of our compatriots to put political and personal ambitions aside to create the necessary unity to meet the historical commitment we all will be assuming by the year 2000.

We should remember that more than 12,000 Panamanian workers will be without jobs when the U.S. Army vacates the military bases. The government should give priority to this problem, which will have serious consequences for the nation.

Those who are trying to postpone the delivery of the Canal properties could never say the U.S. Government has properly maintained these facilities. Nevertheless, Panamanians, with our successes and failures, must assume this historical responsibility.

Not complying with the treaties could be very detrimental to Panama. This eventuality could be seen as a confirmation that U.S. reactionary groups that have obstinately opposed the delivery of the Canal to the Panamanians are right.

Instead of asking for a postponement in the delivery of the reverted assets, Panamanians should be prepared to put them to the best possible use. Our future conditions will not be any different from the ones we are facing today.

Panamanians, both the government and the people, must show the world that our generational struggle to finally recover our territory and the Panama Canal has always been valid. We must show we have the enthusiasm, patriotism, willingness, and ability to undertake and manage great projects. We must counter our enemies' argument that we lack the capacity, maturity, or stability to do it.

Police Director Denies Command Change Linked to Plot

PA1202180195 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Feb 95 p 3

[Report by Cecilia Fonseca]

[FBIS Translated Text] David, Chiriqui Province—National Police Director Oswaldo Fernandez yesterday denied that his institution's change in command in Chiriqui is related to an alleged plot, as officially reported, to assassinate President Ernesto Perez Balladares.

"I am taking advantage of this occasion to tell members of this police zone that the president of the republic and the entire leadership of the institution trusts you," Fernandez pointed out.

He reaffirmed to the policemen that they should not feel discouraged, because they have done an excellent job despite having worked "with very limited resources," and he urged them to continue working for the sake of the community.

The change in command in Chiriqui Province was completed yesterday when Subcommissioner Alexander Basich handed the keys for the Chiriqui Police Zone to Major Bolivar Castillo.

Martin Torrijos, deputy minister of government and justice; the National Police director; Chiriqui Governor Ricardo Saval; and noncommissioned officers and agents of the institution attended the ceremony.

Fernandez said the new chief of the zone is very professional, and he voiced his hope that the officers, noncommissioned officers, and policemen will be able to confirm this on a personal basis.

During his swearing in as new police chief in Chiriqui, Maj. Bolivar Castillo pointed out that in order to fulfill his mission he will need the cooperation of all units, and he added he will enforce the laws that regulate Panama's democratic society.

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister Torrijos said: "We are aware of his unselfish work, and we realize it is sometimes unrewarding."

Members of the institution are restoring public order by fighting crime and drug trafficking, he noted.

"We know about his commitment and respect for institutional order in the Republic of Panama, and I urge you to continue working with the strongest determination, despite a shortage of resources," Torrijos added.

Argentina

Menem: Falklands Recovery Is 'Top Priority'

PY1002205895 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2352 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 9 Feb (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem said emphatically on 9 February that the recovery of Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands is a top priority for the Argentine Government. He believes a visit by U.K. Prime Minister John Major to Argentina would help to achieve this objective.

Having said he was even "willing to travel to Great Britain if invited," Menem pointed out that "the recovery of the Malvinas Islands constitutes a priority for the Argentine Government," adding: "We will continue our struggle at all international forums."

During a news conference at Government House, Menem said: "It would be very important if the U.K. prime minister were to visit Argentina," adding that "this is feasible," although "the Foreign Ministry is handling this issue."

Commenting on this, Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella told TELAM: "A meeting between Major and President Menem was to have been held in New York last 31 January," but it had to be suspended.

Di Tella explained that the meeting was rescheduled for "next 31 October during the summit of the UN Security Council" if Menem is re-elected, otherwise, the new president will attend this meeting.

During the news conference, Menem did not rule out the possibility of holding talks with British authorities on a tripartite government for the Malvinas Islands among Argentina, the United Kingdom, and the United Nations.

Asked about that possibility, Menem replied: "Anything that helps Argentina to set foot on the Malvinas Islands is welcome."

The head of state labeled as "very good" the negotiations between the Argentine oil corporation YPF [Government Oil Deposits] and British Gas to exploit the gas and oil basins around the islands.

Menem warned: "It would be really serious if the United Kingdom exploited it alone." He then praised the YPF administration saying that its achievements "constitute a major step forward."

"When a private company prospers in an area, the whole country progresses." [passage omitted]

Views 'Sharing' Falklands Islands

PY1002223195 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 10 Feb 95 p 8

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Argentine President Carlos Menem said yesterday that the Malvinas War was "hapless" because "we fought against everyone" ("as the United Kingdom is a NATO member, every NATO member entered the war"). He added that even though "we were at the point of winning, the Foreign Ministry men of the time blundered."

Menem added: "Pursuant to reports I read at the time and to what I have been able to read now, the United Kingdom was willing to implement a cease-fire. Had that happened, the Argentine flag would now be fluttering over the Malvinas Islands, maybe with other flags, but the Argentine flag would be fluttering there."

Menem thus answered journalists during a news conference.

Answering a question on the possibility of a tripartite administration in the Malvinas Islands (involving Argentina, the United Kingdom, and the United Nations), Menem said: "Anything to enable Argentina to set foot on the Malvinas Islands is good." [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Di Tella traveled to Bolivia to sign an agreement with his Bolivian and Paraguayan counterparts to solve the problem of the Pilcomayo River, which involves the three nations. [passage omitted]

Concerning the possibility admitted yesterday by Menem that there could be three flags over the Malvinas Islands, Di Tella explained: "Argentina is studying all alternatives that follow what now represents a constitutional mandate: to recover sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands through peaceful and legal methods. As the president said, anything to enable Argentina to set foot on the Malvinas Islands is good."

Government Urges Economic 'Calm,' Expresses 'Concern'

PY1002223495 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2316 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Feb (NA)—The troubled situation within the Buenos Aires stock market today forced the government to ask market agents for "calm." The government did not hide its concern over the critical picture that is being drawn by the continuous fall of market values and the deep lack of liquidity in the banking system, which continues to put pressure on the banks.

President Carlos Menem lead the "tranquilizing campaign." This morning he ruled out any "aftershocks" within the economy after the 14 May election.

The head of state did recognize that the consequences of the Mexican crisis might continue to affect local markets, although he added that shocks will become "more and more sporadic."

Concern over the financial situation increased significantly after the collapse of another bank (the Basel, which was suspended for 30 days by the Central Bank).

Minister Domingo Cavallo said in Miami, where he is participating in a seminar on the situation of Latin American markets, that the banking situation in Argentina is "solid."

He added that the forced merger of various banks due to a serious lack of liquidity "is not a sign of crisis."

Cavallo again encouraged bank mergers and absorption, saying that there are far too many banks.

"In the past few years the number of banks dropped from 400 to 200, and it will not surprise me if only 100 survive," Cavallo said.

The Mexican disaster, which began on 20 December, had a destabilizing effect on the other emerging markets in the region, causing mistrust among investors who had their capital invested in regional markets.

The exit of capital toward safer havens placed the main Latin American markets in a slide, but there are no clear signs that the down effect will end soon.

The Merval index, on the leading shares in the Buenos Aires stock market, has dropped by nearly 25 percent since the Mexican crisis.

Central Bank President Roque Fernandez admitted today that bank deposit withdrawals in the country "slightly exceeded" $1 billion.

Fernandez said, however, that the lack of bank liquidity is not the consequence of a general lack of solvency, but the result of "external influences;" specifically the Tequila Effect.

Fernandez is optimistic that the difficulties within the banking system will be "gradually overcome" through a process of readjustments (mergers and purchase of portfolios) among entities.

Roque Maccarone, finances, banking, and insurance secretary, was more direct and recognized that the economic team "is greatly concerned" over the continuous drop of local stock market values.

"We are concerned about Argentine bond losses," he said.

State Workers Peacefully Occupy Provincial Congress

PY1002222695 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2350 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Viedma, 9 Feb (NA)—About 200 Rio Negro public servants today peacefully occupied the provincial Congress building as a way of demanding payment of their January salaries. The conflict caused by the financial crisis being experienced by this province has thus reached a peak of maximum tension.

The public servants today carried out a number of protest actions outside the Congress building, burning tires and installing a "soup kitchen." [passage omitted]

Workers Protest, Demand Salary Payment

PY1002224995 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0030 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cordoba, 9 Feb (NA)—Cordoba public servants today continued to develop their program of struggle aimed at collecting their January salaries, while Governor Eduardo Angeloz conducted busy negotiations in Buenos Aires to receive economic aid to allow him to overcome the financial troubles being experienced by the province.

Members of the Coordinating Board of State Workers Unions again implemented this morning their forceful measures, including halting their work, holding protest demonstrations on the streets of downtown Cordoba, and holding marches and meetings outside various ministerial buildings. [passage omitted]

New Air Regions Commander Genolet Installed

PY1002225195 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 10 Feb 95 p 25

[FBIS Translated Text] During a ceremony held at the Ministro Pistarini airport, Brigadier Major Horacio Genolet was installed as air regions commander.

Military Affairs Secretary Jorge Baeza; Planning Secretary Jorge Etchechoury; Brigadier General Juan Paulik, the Air Force chief of staff; and high-ranking military officers were present at the inauguration ceremony.

After Brigadier Paulik installed him, Genolet described the tasks that he would carry out as commander. The new commander delivered to the outgoing air regions commander, Brigadier Hector Cid, the pennant that Cid had been using throughout his tenure.

Bolivia

Concern Expressed Over Reduced U.S. Aid in Drug Fight

PY0902151295 La Paz Radio Cadena Nacional Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The ERBOL [Bolivian Broadcasting Education System] Agency has reported to the Radio Cadena Nacional Network "National Encounter" and the ERBOL national radio network that the U.S. decision to reduce its economic cooperation for our struggle against drug trafficking and other programs has awakened concern in the Bolivian Foreign Ministry.

International Relations Secretary Jaime Aparicio has indicated that the United States should understand national reality regarding the fight against this illegal activity in view of growing reports on the breaking up of drug trafficking rings and the control on the commercialization of precursors.

The Foreign Ministry official stated that if we really want to combat drug trafficking, we must begin with an understanding of our reality. From there the efforts the country is making to maintain that aid and to have it increased will be understood.

General Terms Drug Trafficking Case 'Isolated' Incident

PY1002021195 La Paz HOY in Spanish 21 Jan 95 p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] General Reynaldo Caceres, Armed Forces commander in chief, has said the Armed Forces are determined to fight the appearance of even the tiniest cell of drug trafficking mafias in the institution. Caceres denied that international drug cartels had infiltrated the military institution.

Caceres made these remarks when asked about the possibility that the international drug cartels had infiltrated the military institution.

Gen. Caceres said drug traffickers have very little chance of getting established in the Armed Forces, which does not mean we should neglect controls.

Isolated Incident

The incident involving former Frigate Captain Oswaldo Justiniano is an isolated case that does not tarnish the entire institution, but we are alert to repressing any attempt by drug traffickers to infiltrate the institution, the military commander said.

Caceres said the report that drug trafficking mafias had infiltrated the Armed Forces is simply and clearly an exaggeration, because you cannot blame the entire institution on the basis of the behavior of a single individual.

Caceres said the military institution has shown its determination to fight that scourge, one of the worst affecting human beings.

The Armed Forces do not participate directly in the repression of drug trafficking, but its three task branches provide invaluable logistical support, Caceres said.

We confirm our commitment to fighting drug trafficking, and the actions of certain individuals will not make us change our policy, Caceres said.

Commotion in the Armed Forces

The arrest of former Frigate Captain Oswaldo Justiniano provoked great commotion within the Armed Forces because it was the first time an active duty officer was discovered red-handedly in this illegal activity since Luis Arce Gomez was accused of being involved in drug trafficking, which provoked his extradition to the United States.

Caceres said it was up to the courts to impose any penalty once the officer was dishonorably discharged from the Army.

We can only ask that the punishment be an example and serve as a lesson to anyone who might feel tempted to get involved with drugs, Caceres said.

The determination to fight even the tiniest cell of drug traffickers in the Armed Forces is unanimous.

Creation of Binational Border City With Paraguay Planned

PY0902220895 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Argentine and Paraguayan foreign ministers are visiting our country. Reporters talked with Paraguayan Foreign Minister Luis Maria Ramirez this morning.

Today Paraguayan and Bolivian representatives signed a memorandum of understanding for the creation of a binational ad hoc commission that will elaborate [words indistinct] and the final study of the project for a binational city to be built near the Villazon border mark. Paraguayan Foreign Minister Luis Maria Ramirez came to our country for that purpose. The Paraguayan foreign minister also met with Bolivian Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar Quiroga. Ramirez' visit is within the framework of two foreign ministers' tour of our country. Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella will also be with us shortly. But the presence of the Paraguayan foreign minister was the excuse to present a project to build twin cities near the Villazon border mark, in Bolivia, and Sargento Rodriguez, in Paraguay.

The ad hoc commission must present its final conclusions to both countries' governments within 90 days.

[Begin Aranibar recording] We have analyzed the various aspects of our common geographical connections, such as road interconnections, multipurpose corridors, border cooperation, the Paraguay-Parana Waterway, and other issues that are important at the bilateral as well as the multilateral level. [end recording]

Aranibar concluded by saying that the twin cities study contemplates the creation of a legal framework, the building of a basic infrastructure, the construction of housing units, and provisions for economic incentives to settlers from both nations.

The Paraguayan foreign minister stressed the effort put into the project by both nations.

[Begin Ramirez recording] On 6 August 1994 we witnessed an extraordinary event. The two presidents, the two peoples, the two veterans, extended their arms in a fraternal embrace. [end recording]

The two foreign ministers attended the ceremony marking the creation of the Paraguayan-Bolivian Cultural Institute. A group of numerous local personalities attended the ceremony. Aranibar said the creation of the institute is a valuable initiative that fully satisfies the Bolivian Government, adding that he is convinced the institute will be an essential center of knowledge, understanding, and cooperation between the two nations.

Argentina's Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella is already in our country. This afternoon the three foreign ministers—Antonio Aranibar Quiroga, Luis Maria Ramirez, and Guido Di Tella—will sign a joint declaration to face a common problem: the Pilcomayo River.

Brazil

State of War, 'Delicate Situation' of Duran-Ballen Viewed

PY1002192595 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Feb 95 Section 2 p 10

[Article by "special correspondent" Fernando Canzian in Ecuador]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Peru's refusal to accept the counterproposal of Ecuador to solve the conflict between the two countries has placed Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen in a delicate situation.

His popularity will suffer heavily if the war continues and he lacks the political strength to retreat and accept an unconditional cease-fire.

Within a couple of days news of Peru's advance at the front and the videos showing dead and injured Ecuadoran soldiers will affect his image and offset his speech of "not giving one centimeter."

The Ecuadoran military apparatus, which is strong and popular right now, will not allow the president to accept a cease-fire that involves Ecuadoran soldiers withdrawing. [passage omitted]

Peru is winning the war—at least apparently. This can be observed by the nervousness of the Ecuadoran military and by the current provision not allowing reporters to travel to areas the Peruvian claim to be controlling.

This is confirmed by reports of Peruvian attacks and their military superiority which is three times that of Ecuador.

The continuous Peruvian attacks with planes and helicopters could be causing more casualties among the Ecuadorans than those caused by the Army.

To this we must add that Ecuador is not attacking Peruvian positions but, as it claims, it is only defending its territory.

Sending relief troops and weapons is becoming difficult, especially in a mountainous region with difficult access like the one where the fighting is taking place.

President Alberto Fujimori, who is seeking reelection, is obtaining political gain from the conflict.

The Peruvian people's initial indifference at the conflict with Ecuador has now been transformed to 71 percent support for the war.

Russian Plane Bound for Lima Ordered To Change Course

PY1002190395 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1709 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brasilia, 10 Feb (EFE)—The Brazilian Government has prevented a Russian plane, which had been held for a few hours in the northeast of Brazil, from continuing its flight to Lima. The Brazilian Government released the plane only after the crew agreed to leave for Senegal. The plane was carrying combat helicopter parts, and apparently weapons too.

Although unconfirmed by the government, Brazilian press sources contend today that the Aeroflot Ilyushin plane which was held for a few hours in Fortaleza—where it made a technical stopover—attempted to disobey the flight plan approved by the Brazilian authorities, provoking tension among military officials.

The daily CORREIO BRAZILIENSE reports today in Brasilia that the crew attempted to change course in flight, ignoring an agreement reached with Brazilian officials.

As the plane was leaving Brazilian airspace, the Ilyushin crew apparently sought permission to land in Georgetown, Guyana.

The Brazilian Air Force traffic control office in Recife monitored the request and contacted the Russian pilot again to remind him that he had agreed to fly to Dakkar, Senegal.

The controller notified the pilot that to change his route, Brazilian laws required him to return to Brazilian air space, to the international airport of Guararapes [in Recife], and to file a new flight plan.

CORREIO BRAZILIENSE reports that, after a few minutes of silence, the Russian pilot told the air controller he would follow his approved flight plan.

The pilot then announced that he would make only one technical stopover for refueling in Cape Verde.

The newspaper says the Aeronautics Ministry will verify through Brazilian military attaches in Latin America and Europe whether the Aeroflot plane complied with the flight plan approved in Fortaleza. It is suspected that it may have gone in another direction.

The source said that if it is confirmed that the plane changed course, Brazilian aeronautics officials may impose serious punishments on Aeroflot in Brazil.

The Brazilian Government's decision to prevent the plane from continuing its flight to Lima appears to have been suggested by the Aeronautics Ministry and provoked tension at the Foreign Ministry, where the Ecuadoran and Peruvian delegations are negotiating to end their two-week armed conflict.

The newspaper says Itamaraty (the Brazilian Foreign Ministry) urged the Peruvians to prevent the plane from entering Brazilian airspace on its way to Peru in face of reports from Moscow that the plane would overfly Brazilian territory.

The source says the Peruvians had given an assurance to this effect to the Brazilian Government, but because of a fuel shortage the pilot had to land in Fortaleza, the capital of the Brazilian state of Ceara. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Foreign Minister on U.S.-Colombian Agenda

PA1102201295 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 1818 GMT 11 Feb 95

["Special report" by Ramiro Carrillo and Armando Trull from Washington; from the "Cripton Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo continues his diplomatic efforts in Washington to explain President Ernesto Samper's drug policy and to receive certification by the U.S. Congress. Our correspondent Ramiro Carrillo filed this report via satellite.

[Begin recording] [Carrillo] Pardo visited prominent U.S. senators and congressmen in an attempt to reduce the recent tension between the two countries.

[Pardo] Relations have been difficult, particularly because of the drug trafficking issue. We have a very broad agenda with the United States. We have political, cultural, economic, commercial, and investment ties. These are all very important and complex matters. Undoubtedly, drugs comprise the issue that gives us the most trouble because of the negative connotation, an issue that harms the two countries very much, although in different ways. In the United States, it is a public health issue, while in Colombia it is, as President Samper said this week, a national security issue.

[Trull] Even if the White House does certify Colombia's efforts in fighting drug trafficking, the final word will come from here. Up until now, the atmosphere in Congress has been quite hostile toward any kind of foreign aid. [end recording]

Optimistic About U.S. Certification

PA1202033195 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 12 Feb 95

[Report by Aurea Aguilar from the "AM/PM Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first round of talks between the Colombian Government and U.S. senators concluded this weekend in Washington. Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo has said he is optimistic Colombia will receive a certification, adding he could not think of any reasons why it should not. He has denied relations between the Colombian and Cuban Governments would hinder Colombia's certification. Pardo has said the solution to the drug problem should be viewed from a global viewpoint:

[Begin Pardo recording] What (?we need) is a strategy coordinated by all the countries. This problem is not exclusive to Colombia. We have a serious drug trafficking problem, but drugs are also a problem in countries with high levels of consumption, such as the United States, and in countries that launder money or produce the chemical substances required for drug production. [end recording]

The Colombian Government is certain it will receive certification from the U.S. Congress, but it is aware an answer will not be immediate but long term.

Crop Eradication Program Targets Small Plots

95WD0180Z Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Jan 95 p 3A

[Article by Jesus Ortiz Nieves]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Council for Economic and Social Policy (Conpes) has spelled out the Alternative Development Program (PDA) that will seek to destroy coca, poppy, and marijuana crops. Large plots will be fumigated with herbicides.

To start, Conpes gave the following overview:

—"Estimates are that around 300,000 small-scale producers are growing illicit subsistence crops."

—The areas with coca plantations are Caqueta, Guaviare, Putumayo, Vaupes, Amazonas, Meta, the San Lucas highlands, and southern Bolivar Department.

—The areas with poppy plantations are Tolima, Huila, and Cauca.

—And the regions in which marijuana plantations have been found are the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, the Perija highlands, and Los Motilones highlands.

The program will be managed by the former candidate for governor of Boyaca, Hector Moreno Reyes; its objectives are, among others, to prevent the expansion of illicit crops and to reduce their growing area in peasant farming zones.

Financing will come from the following sources: $150 million in international aid and $150 million from the national government, regional agencies, and the involved communities. This comes to about 250 billion pesos. Some 100 billion will be invested in 1995.

The funds will be distributed across three major categories: infrastructure (roads, energy, and communications), farm production development, and social solidarity activities.

The government will spend close to 46 billion pesos this year on roads, according to the following breakdown:

Putumayo, 10.407 billion; Guaviare, 6.477 billion, and Caqueta, 29 billion.

The main projects are:

The Granada-San Jose del Guaviare highway (4 billion); the Mocoa-Pitalito highway (5 billion); the San Miguel-Puerto Asis-Mocoa highway (2 billion); the Altamira-Florencia highway (14.75 billion); the Cumaral-Aguaclara-El Secreto-Tauramena-Aguazul highway (12.35 billion), and the Planillal-Balsillas-San Vicente highway (8 billion).

In the area of energy, 10.205 billion pesos have been allocated as follows:

Putumayo, 5.348 billion pesos; Guaviare, 4.132 billion, and Caqueta, 725 million.

The main projects to be undertaken are the Pato-Mocoa line; the electrification of middle and lower Putumayo; PCH San Jose del Guaviare or tie line; the refurbishing of the Florencia substation, and the Puerto Rico-San Vicente tie line.

A total of 1.734 billion pesos was earmarked for communications in 1995, as follows:

Putumayo, 300 million; Guaviare, 550 million, and Caqueta, 884 million.

The main projects are Telecaqueta (10,000 lines); 224 lines in San Vicente del Caguan, and 600 lines in San Jose del Guaviare.

The plan primarily seeks to reach the peasants with social projects, while law enforcement makes its presence simultaneously felt in the battle against the major drug traffickers and the guerrillas.

One of the areas that the government has emphasized the most is small-scale irrigation projects. So far they are being pursued in the municipalities of Iquira (Huila), Chaparral, Ortega, Roncevalles, and San Antonio (Tolima), four municipalities in Narino, and four in Cauca, among others.

[Box, p 3A]

Agricultural Plan

One of the main institutions involved in executing this plan is the Agriculture Ministry. Its agencies will spend a total of 35.7 billion pesos in 1995. This figure does not include the money appropriated by the Agrarian Bank, Finagro, and the Agricultural-Livestock Marketing Institute.

The main programs have to do with land management, assistance from the DRI [Integrated Rural Development] Fund, and the creation of a special subsidized- credit line for program beneficiaries. This line of credit has no funding limitations and could cover some 20,000 hectares in an initial phase. A credit line will also be opened through Finagro.

The plan includes crop marketing and the creation of association stores.

Lastly, the government will allocate 9.202 billion pesos for job creation and direct social assistance to peasant families.

[Box, p 3A]

The Commitments

The Alternative Development Program or program to replace illicit crops has made a good impression, for the time being, among the small growers involved in this activity.

The peasant farmers are now more receptive to this sort of program. They have found that land on which coca shrubs and poppies are grown is unproductive for at least a year if it is fumigated.

Among the specific goals of the Alternative Program are:

1. To create new opportunities for growing legal, profitable, and environmentally viable crops.
2. To bolster the management and planning capabilities of municipalities to execute their plans and programs.
3. To strengthen community involvement and organization in order to ensure the execution of their own projects.

The government will provide all necessary advisory services so that communities become more committed to this initiative.

For example, it is anticipated that infrastructure will be provided to improve lands and enhance the overland and river transport system.

According to the announcement, the government will also take action to create effective product marketing arrangements and will offer new credit options and incentives, such as the Agricultural Guarantees Fund and urban renewal programs.

Ecuador

Duran-Ballen: Fujimori Exaggerating Armed Conflict

PA1202044995 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0244 GMT 12 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 11 Feb (EFE)—Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen said today his Peruvian colleague, Alberto Fujimori, is "exaggerating" the armed conflict, which has confronted the two countries since 26 January.

In reference to a news conference Fujimori had planned to hold in the border area, Duran-Ballen said: "It will be just as exaggerated as those he has held in recent days."

"He (Fujimori) has said there are 17 bomber airplanes in the conflict zone, but of the four that appeared, three were downed," Duran-Ballen said in statements to reporters at the Carondelet Presidential Palace in Quito.

Asked about Peru's eventual use of chemical warfare in the conflict, an issue which Fujimori denied today, the Ecuadoran president assured he has "no information in that regard." "I do not want to imitate Mr. Fujimori by exaggerating the situation," he added.

Duran-Ballen also reiterated the "success" of his recent efforts in three (Argentina, Brazil, and Chile) of the four guarantor countries (the previously named countries plus the United States) of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, a 1942 border agreement between Ecuador and Peru. He used the same word to describe the talks between Ecuadoran Congress President Heinz Moeller with Secretary of State Warren Christopher of the United States, the fourth guarantor country of this agreement.

Regarding the negotiations in Brazil between the deputy foreign ministers of the guarantor countries with the deputy foreign ministers of Ecuador and Peru, Duran-Ballen said "one needs to propose new agreements to the governments, because the previous one presented by Ecuador was not accepted by Peru."

The Ecuadoran president justified his diplomatic efforts abroad, because "most countries have no idea why the Protocol is inexecutable."

"It is important that the world first understand our country's realities, that it is not a whim of ours (not to accept the Protocol), that there is a geographic reality different from what the Protocol covered," he said.

The president added another reason for his trips to Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and, previously, to the Bolivarian

Summit last week in Cumana (Venezuela) was to "clarify that perhaps at the beginning it was said we were the aggressors."

He added: "No Peruvian site has been attacked by Ecuadoreans up to today."

On his delayed trip to Washington, which he suspended two days ago at the last minute, he said "it may not be necessary now" due to negotiation developments in Brazil.

Regarding prospects for a definitive solution to the armed conflict, he said: "Not only should we have hope that a cease-fire may be decreed tomorrow or the day after but that we must remain vigilant that the following process, which will be long, tedious, of much discussion, manages a fair solution."

"As far as I am concerned, I will do the utmost for this process to be carried out, but we cannot say for sure this will take place either before or after the end of my term in office," he warned.

He also denied reports on the alleged death of two doctors and two nurses in the conflict area, "because to begin with, no such personnel is at the front. All are in nearby villages, not in the actual conflict area," he said.

Delegate Denies 'Major' U.S. Role in Conflict

PA1202192195 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1612 GMT 12 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 12 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Mario Ribadeneira, the former Ecuadoran ambassador to the United States, today denied the United States will play a major role in the current armed conflict between Ecuador and Peru.

"I am skeptical the United States will play a major role in this issue, but it clearly voiced a willingness to support efforts to reach an understanding between Ecuador and Peru," Ribadeneira said.

The former Ecuadoran ambassador to the United States was member of a delegation from his country that met with Secretary of State Warren Christopher and U.S. legislators in Washington to explain Ecuador's position on its border conflict with Peru.

Ribadeneira, who is known for his pragmatism, said, "in the United States there is talk about remaining neutral in this case."

The diplomat's statements came after it was reported that the Clinton administration reportedly applied pressure on the Ecuadoran Government to quickly reach a cease-fire agreement.

Ribadeneira said this is not the time for a meeting between Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen and U.S. President Clinton, and he added this possibility was not discussed during the Ecuadoran delegation's visit to Washington.

Duran-Ballen has already toured Brazil, Argentina, and Chile—the guarantors of the Rio Protocol along with the United States—to explain Ecuador's position on the conflict with Peru that has worsened since 26 January.

The countries of the protocol, which settled a border conflict between the two Andean countries in 1942, continue to negotiate in Brasilia to end the hostilities, but results have been hindered by the parties' refusal to accept the conditions that have been demanded.

Government Accepts Mediation by Carter, Costa Rica's Arias

PA1102001495 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2342 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A last minute report states the Ecuadoran Government announced today it accepts the mediation by former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in the armed conflict between Ecuador and Peru.

In response to the public request by Carter and Arias for the governments of Quito and Lima to declare a cease-fire, Ecuador, just as it has done with all other peace-seeking initiatives, accepts the intervention of these personalities in the search for a cease-fire and for an agreement to resolve the current conflict with Peru, stated a note from the National Secretariat of Communication.

Foreign Minister on Seeking Papal Mediation

PA1002204195 Paris AFP in Spanish 1819 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 10 Feb (AFP)—Ecuador announced today that if diplomatic efforts conducted by the guarantor countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol (1942) fail, then it will turn to Pope John Paul II for an urgent arbitration to resolve the territorial conflict with Peru.

In an interview with AFP, Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Galo Leoro said, "We are willing to exhaust all legal mechanisms to reach a peaceful solution to a conflict that is hurting us and that must be overcome as soon as possible."

He noted that Ecuador, during President Rodrigo Borja's administration (1988-1992), had proposed papal arbitration, adding, "it would be a permanent and legal solution for both countries." Peru rejected this initiative and instead proposed that a study by experts be conducted over the disputed Amazon region.

Foreign Minister Leoro thanked the guarantor countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States) for their work, but he added that they must play the role of mediators in certain specific situations. "The guarantor countries are not arbitrators," he said.

"An arbitration by the Holy See in the Ecuadoran-Peruvian conflict will allow us to discuss and resolve all aspects concerning the definitive demarcation of our common border," he said.

A total of 78 km of common border have remained undelimited since 1947, when Ecuador declared the Rio de

Janeiro Protocol (1942) could not be implemented because of the discovery of a region containing the source of the Cenepa River, which was unknown when the treaty was signed in the Brazilian city. When the Protocol was signed, only the valley of the Santiago River was mentioned, Leoro noted on Friday. Leoro recognized that part of the reason for the continuation of the hostilities lies in the fact that Ecuador cannot abandon an area that is completely Ecuadoran.

"Ecuador cannot abandon an area that has remained under Ecuadoran control for decades by the detachments of Cueva de los Tayos, Tihuinza, and Base Sur," Foreign Minister Leoro said. Leoro, however, did not say when a request will be made to the Vatican.

Foreign Minister Comments on Guarantors' Communique

PA1102013795 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Feb 95

[Statement by Foreign Minister Galo Leoro at the presidency in Quito; from "The Voz Andes Newscast"—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Good evening. The national government received the following press communique from the guarantors in Brasilia a short time ago. I will read it.

The guarantor countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol of 1942—Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and United States of America—are still in session and are determined to assist Ecuador and Peru through dialogue with their representatives, thus enabling these countries to resolve the current crisis.

In deploring the loss of human lives and the ongoing armed confrontation, the guarantor countries have renewed their conviction that the sides be able to reach an understanding that will restore peace and create the conditions for a lasting solution to the prevailing impasse.

To this end the guarantor countries have reiterated the urgent need to immediately suspend hostilities. The guarantor countries maintain their offer to send a mission to the conflict zone to verify the implementation of a cease-fire and preventive measures. With a view to the formation of this mission, a technical-military meeting is being planned for early next week in Brasilia with representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and United States of America.

The guarantor countries urgently appeal to the international community to adhere to their firm pledge not to supply weapons and military materiel to Ecuador and Peru as long as hostilities persist between the two countries.

The Ecuadoran Government and the Foreign Ministry, of which I am in charge, emphasize and are thankful to the four countries' for their assertion that they are still determined to help Ecuador and Peru resolve the current crisis through dialogue. This determination, obviously, is what we need. We need all the force possible and all the persuasion necessary to, first, achieve the cease-fire that Ecuador has always called for.

You may recall that on 31 January Ecuador agreed to a cease-fire according to the terms established by the guarantor countries, particularly through the assistant secretary general of the [word indistinct] Foreign Ministry. From that time on we have been willing and inclined to accept a cease-fire. It could not be otherwise.

I believe, of course, that the creation of a technical-military commission to help us achieve a cease-fire will, to some extent, define possible steps that would make the entire plan executable if a solution is reached.

I trust that this renewed determination, as I just read in the press communique, is a renewed expression that will lead to a cease-fire and a possible solution in the immediate future. Thank you very much.

Congress President on Grounds for Cease-Fire

PA1202012495 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2330 GMT 11 Feb 95

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Congress President Heinz Moeller has said he has reasonable grounds to believe a cease-fire will be reached between his country and Peru in the next few hours. Ecuador and Peru have been engaged in a military confrontation on their common Amazon border for the past 17 days.

We have reasonable grounds to believe we will reach a dignified cease-fire in the next few hours, God willing, that will allow us to have a demilitarized zone, the presence of observers, and a neutral military force, Moeller has said.

At the end of a meeting held by the Ecuadoran Security Council at Carondelet Presidential Palace in Quito, Moeller added that news was received from the battle front according to which there have been no changes, no isolated incidents in the conflict zone. He has also said the guarantor countries are active in their efforts to reach an agreement on the border conflict between Ecuador and Peru.

They are not physically at a meeting, but there is activity, telephone contacts, and efforts are being made to reformulate a proposal for a cease-fire that will be acceptable to Ecuador and Peru.

Ecuadoran reporters have asked him when this virtual agreement on the suspension of hostilities will be made public. Moeller replied the best strategy would be to disclose it when it has a high level of acceptance. He has also said there are other countries interested in contributing to the peace efforts, aside from the four mediator countries that have acted so far. He has said Peru's objective of seizing the Condor Mountain Range has not been accomplished.

Upon his return from the United States, Moeller said the U.S. Government has remained objective and impartial in the armed conflict between Ecuador and Peru.

Moeller has said: Contrary to what could have been expected, we were received by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Alexander Watson, the assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs. They listened to the Ecuadoran views on the conflict in a very constructive and frank meeting that lasted more than one hour.

Government Sees Military-Political 'Uncertainty' in Peru

PA1202145495 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 12 Feb 95

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This is an official bulletin from the Senacom [National State Communications Secretariat]: The government in Quito believes that in Peru there is political-military uncertainty, which is both the cause and the effect of the armed confrontation with Ecuador. It could also lead to an attempt to forcefully reorganize political and military institutions in Peru.

According to the government in Quito, neither Peru's political and military handling of the conflict with Ecuador nor the military operation itself has been successful. In fact, the military operation has not been able to evict the alleged invaders from Peruvian territory. Quite the contrary, Peru has sustained many casualties among its troops as well as a considerable loss of military equipment.

The Senacom of the Ecuadoran Government has made public these considerations through this official bulletin, which is based on a report from Lima. According to the government in Quito, the uncertainty in Peruvian political, military, and business quarters is related to a possible attempt, in the short term, to forcefully alter the current rules of the game to prevent the renewal of democratic institutions scheduled for April.

According to the Ecuadoran Government, there is agreement in Peru, and throughout the continent and even the world, that the government in Lima launched a military campaign against Ecuador at their common border when military links to drug trafficking were an open secret and when the possibility of Fujimori's reelection started to lose steam.

The Senacom bulletin states Peru promoted the campaign against Ecuador as a result of an agreement reached by the military hierarchy and the political leadership of that country based on the false assumption that the enemy would be easily defeated. The goal was to mount a publicity campaign to make people forget about problems at home and to improve Fujimori's image among voters.

This goal, however, has failed at all levels, the bulletin adds. It is now evident Peru started the armed campaign; that it was the aggressor under the false objective of recovering territory that does not belong to it; and that the attacked country, Ecuador, has turned out to be a hard nut to crack and is successfully resisting, although its capacity to wage war is considerably weaker than that of the neighboring country.

Moreover, reports from Lima, which the government of Quito has not confirmed, support its claims on the mistaken political-military efforts of the Peruvian president. This has been publicly acknowledged in Peru, even by the wife of the current president, Susana Higuchi; by important journalists and intellectuals of that country and elsewhere; by most public opinion sectors; and by Latin American experts.

The Peruvian president is separated from his wife, Susana Higuchi, who became one of her former husband's worst political enemies when she announced her intention of running in the presidential elections as a candidate of Fujimori's opposition.

Since 26 January, Ecuador and Peru have been engaged in an armed confrontation in a not yet demarcated Amazonian area shared by the two countries. The two countries accuse each other of invading their respective territories, according to this bulletin.

Foreign Ministry Charges Peru Planning To Open Fronts

PA1302162395 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1326 GMT 13 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 13 Feb (EFE)—Peru intends to "open other fronts of aggression" against Ecuador and extend the armed conflict in which both countries have been involved since 26 January in a strip of land on their undelineated border in the Amazon, the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry charged today.

This is why Ecuador has demanded the "urgent dispatching" of international observers to border sites in El Oro and Loja Provinces, located to the west (on the Pacific coast) of the conflict area.

The Ecuadoran warning was made after the Peruvian television station "America Television" said, according to an Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry communique, that Ecuador had reportedly prepared "a bloodcurdling invasion plan against Piura and Tumbes," two Peruvian cities, which Ecuador denies.

"The statements made by the aforementioned television channel constitute a poor attempt to conceal the true Peruvian intention which is the opening of another front of aggression against our country on the pretext of responding to an alleged Ecuadoran attack which they claim is being planned," the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry communique states.

It adds that "these deceitful" statements "constitute proof that Peru is seeking the extension of the current military conflict with Ecuador."

After describing and rejecting the Peruvian television report as an "irresponsible and dangerous campaign," the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry added that it publicly denounces it before the international community "which is being alerted as to who is truly responsible for the escalation of the conflict."

"The plan of the Peruvian leaders to influence public opinion in order to justify the military escalation is obvious and clear," it adds.

This Peruvian attitude seeks to repeat "tactics," which it already used in the Peruvian-Ecuadoran war of 1941, "when it accused Ecuador of drafting an alleged invasion plan to justify the aggression which it later unleashed against our country, the painful epilogue of which was the Rio de Janeiro Protocol," it stated.

This protocol, an Ecuadoran-Peruvian border agreement signed in 1942, names Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States as guarantors.

Ecuador has asked those governments to "urgently dispatch military observers to the Ecuadoran-Peruvian border region, specifically to the provinces of El Oro and Loja so that they can verify on the spot that Ecuadoran Armed Forces have adopted a defensive position to repel any invasion attempt and that they have no other intentions."

Ministry Protests Detentions, Grants Peruvians Safeconducts

PA1002133295 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Feb 95

[From "The Vos Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ecuador has presented a protest to Peru for the detention of four Ecuadoran citizens in Chiclayo and is demanding their immediate release. An Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry communique reported four Ecuadoran citizens were detained by Peruvian authorities in Chiclayo.

Therefore, the Ecuadoran Consulate filed a complaint with the National State Security Directorate and demanded their release. The consulate also asked Peru to offer all of the necessary guarantees to all Ecuadorans detained in Peruvian territory and respect for their personal and psychological safety.

The Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry also reported that 15 Peruvians, who arrived in Ecuador claiming to be persecuted by the government of President Fujimori, received safeconducts to travel to other countries. A communique stated that all of the required assistance was provided and safeconducts issued to 15 Peruvian citizens who are residing in our country to travel to other countries in keeping with the wishes expressed voiced by authorities of our Foreign Ministry.

The document added that these people arrived in Ecuador fleeing Fujimori's persecution. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees will relocate these people in other countries.

Government Denies Attack on Red Cross Post

PA1002130195 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0248 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 9 Feb (EFE)—The Ecuadoran Government and Armed Forces today "categorically" denied that their forces stationed on the border with Peru bombed an International Red Cross post as was reported from Lima.

Ecuadoran Government spokesman Enrique Proano told EFE that the accusation by Lima is "a lie" that responds to reports Wednesday claiming that Peru had attacked Ecuadoran civilians.

Peru accused Ecuador today of bombing an International Red Cross post located in a military base situated within Peruvian territory.

A spokesperson for the Ecuadoran National Defense Ministry also denied to EFE the "false and reckless" Peruvian accusation. Ecuador respects the international agreements that rule in the case of armed conflicts, the same source added.

Ecuadoran military, political, and diplomatic sources have reiterated that Ecuadoran soldiers are simply responding to Peruvian ground and air attacks along the Amazon strip. This border area, which has been the theater of the conflict since 26 January, has not been demarcated.

Sources also said troops are complying with the peremptory command by President Sixto Duran-Ballen not to attack any area outside Ecuadoran territory established in a "gentleman's agreement," which dates back several years and which stipulates a "status quo" that, according to Ecuador, has not been respected by Peru.

Today, clashes took place in the towns along the Cenepa River, a tributary of the Maranon River, which in turn is a tributary of the Amazon River, and they worsened following the use of warplanes. In the past three days, the fighting was limited to hand-to-hand combat, and, at the most, it involved mortars.

Ministry Rejects Peruvian Bulletin on Reporter Incident

PA1102001095 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2327 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ecuadoran Foreign Relations Ministry has voiced its adamant rejection of the terms and ill-intentioned contents of the bulletin issued by the Peruvian Foreign Relations Ministry Press Directorate two nights ago on the physical attack on two Peruvian journalists, correspondents of the Panamericana de Television network, by unknown deranged individuals. The country's official sectors, the Ecuadoran people, and the Ecuadoran media themselves immediately repudiated this isolated incident, and the Ecuadoran authorities ordered an immediate investigation.

The aforementioned bulletin failed to mention that Ecuadoran journalist Tania Tinoco and an Ecuavisa cameraman were unjustifiably and arbitrarily detained in Lima for several hours as a mere scare tactic.

Contrary to what the Peruvian Foreign Ministry reported, other Peruvian journalists accredited in Ecuador publicly acknowledged the good treatment and the constant help they have received in performing their duties.

Government Rejects Response to Humanitarian Truce

PA1002182995 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 Feb 95

["Text" of "bulletin issued by the State Communications National Secretariat" in Quito on 10 February; read by reporter Edwin Chamorro at the Presidency; from "The Voz Andes Newscast"—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources within the Presidency have rejected the intransigent position of Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori on a possible humanitarian truce, as requested by the International Red Cross. Fujimori has revealed his true self by calling the Ecuadoran proposal an maneuver. He does not want to stop—or cannot stop—the aggression, as this would represent a pause in his attack plans and military mobilization. Attacks have worsened during the last few hours with the massive use of air strikes.

According to Peruvian journalist Alvaro Vargas Llosa, it is suspected that he is unable to stop the attacks. Vargas Llosa has attacked Fujimori, charging that he is a civilian instrument of the military, who really planned and launched the attacks.

Minister: Conflict To End When Peru Stops Attacks

PA1102175595 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1608 GMT 11 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 12 Feb [date as received] (EFE)—When Peru stops its attacks, the confrontation with Ecuador will be over, Ecuadoran Defense Minister General Jose Gallardo said today.

At a news conference, Gallardo confirmed that Ecuadoran forces downed two Peruvian aircraft and damaged another on Friday [10 February].

The general reiterated several times that Ecuador is defending itself, adding that when Peru stops attacking, the conflict will be over.

"Peruvian aircraft have entered our territory, without us provoking them.... We have only used our weapons within the perimeter of territory that rightfully belongs to us," the general added.

Regarding Ecuadoran casualties, he said there have been nine dead and 35 wounded. He explained that two soldiers who had been listed as dead on Friday were found alive within the past few hours.

Noting that "the history of David and Goliath is as old as the world," Gallardo said Ecuador "has learned to fight successfuly against a force that has superior weaponry because of its right to defend the integrity and dignity of the fatherland."

Defense Minister Views Border Dispute

PA1102192895 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Feb 95

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ecuadoran Defense Minister Jose Gallardo has said the armed conflict with Ecuador will end as soon as Peru stops attacking the area near the source of the Cenepa River. Ecuadoran Defense Minister Jose Gallardo Ramon held a news conference this morning. Here is an excerpt:

[Begin Gallardo recording] First, I want to categorically deny reports that the Ecuadoran Armed Forces attacked a Peruvian Red Cross facility. I base my denial on the statements made by the Peruvian Red Cross president, Dr. Pedro Munoz, himself. He said no Peruvian Red Cross facility was attacked.

Second, I will refer to the humanitarian truce Ecuador accepted. Our country accepted the International Red Cross initiative. We did not have any special interest in this because we do not have missing personnel. We are holding four Peruvian prisoners. We want the Red Cross, as was the case with the first two prisoners, to confirm the condition of these captured Peruvians. We have no vested interests in this issue because we do not have any missing soldiers.

We have on a daily basis reported on casualties sustained by the Ecuadoran Armed Forces. Among the dead who are decomposing at the front, there are no members of the Ecuadoran Armed Forces. We have no vested interests in this regard, either.

I note this because it was said that with this humanitarian truce, which does not benefit us directly, we are perhaps trying to obtain a military advantage. There also was talk of some kind of trap.

Third, I want to talk about the Peruvian Air Force bombings of our detachments and positions in Cueva de los Tayos, Base Sur, Tihuinza, and Coangos. The craters left by the bombs display their highly destructive power. They also bombed our detachment in Condor Mirador, which is outside the disputed area.

For this reason, the Ecuadoran Air Force was forced to carry out an action to protect our detachments, which were the target of powerful bombs dropped by the Peruvian Air Force. In that aerial combat we suffered no casualties. We downed one Sukhoi, an A-37 plane, and another Sukhoi, which was smoking, fled the combat zone. We do not know its ultimate fate.

It has been said that our forces have abandoned equipment and arms. This is completely false. We do not know where they have found equipment and weapons, because we are maintaining our positions, we do not have missing personnel, we have buried all of our dead, and we have recovered all of our wounded. It is easy to mount a farce to present weapons that the Peruvians and we have. This has not yet been done, but I foresee it. They are evidently trying to influence the Ecuadoran people and its Armed Forces through a display of weapons, powerful planes, vessels, and other things, such as tanks. Gentlemen, the story of David and Goliath is as old as humanity. [end recording]

Ecuadoran Defense Minister Jose Gallardo added that the Ecuadoran casualty toll includes nine dead and 35 injured.

He said two soldiers who were believed to have been killed in action on Friday have appeared alive within the past few hours. As for the establishment of a technical-military commission to send a group of observers to the disputed area, Gallardo said Ecuador has always been open to this idea.

Gallardo described as absolutely understandable [explicable] the request made by the countries mediating in the conflict to the international community not to sell weapons to either Peru or Ecuador. He said Ecuador will not be affected by this measure.

As for official reports from Lima, the Ecuadoran defense minister accused Peru of mounting a farce, as we already heard him say.

Defense Ministry: Peru Hindering Diplomatic Efforts

PA1002131295 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Feb 95

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ecuadoran Defense Ministry has said that Peru's position to condition a cease-fire on the withdrawal of Ecuadoran troops from the disputed area is obstructing diplomatic efforts. The ministry described as unacceptable a proposal made by President Fujimori, who wants peace, but only after all Ecuadoran troops have left territory he claims is Peruvian. In an official report, the Defense Ministry insisted that this condition is unacceptable to Ecuador, because the areas from which Peru wants Ecuador to withdraw have been in Ecuadoran hands for many years.

Armed Forces Issue Compulsory Call to Reservists

PA1202045795 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0208 GMT 12 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Quito, 11 Feb (EFE)—The Ecuadoran Armed Forces today issued a compulsory call to reservists who completed their military obligation in 1989, 1990, and 1991. They are to heed this call on 13 February in order to be sent eventually to the battle front against Peru.

The top command already summoned those who completed their military obligation in 1992, 1993, and 1994.

The call is compulsory, the General Command of Ecuador's Ground Forces reiterated in a communique.

Those who were summoned "must go to the Ground Forces Personnel Directorate on 13 February to receive their orders," the communique stated.

The transfer of additional soldiers to active duty coincided with the last bulletin issued by the Armed Forces Joint Command, which ascertained that Peru attacked civilian zones outside the area of conflict again today. These areas are inhabited by Indians of the Shuar (Jibaro) ethnic group.

The communique added that Peruvian forces in the past few hours attacked two Ecuadoran military posts outside the scenario of the main armed confrontations between the two countries, along a strip of land in the Amazon border region that is unmarked, an area both countries claim for themselves.

"Reconnaissance and strafing flights against Ecuador's Banderas and Numbatkaime border posts, located outside the area of the conflict, were made at 1100 (1600 GMT). Operations are being spread to nonmilitary zones, zones inhabited by the Shuar community," the communique stated.

"Clashes between patrols of the two armies continued this morning and part of this afternoon (Saturday) in Cueva de los Tayos, Base Sur, and Tiwintza," although, it added, "air activity dropped today." [passage omitted]

Colonel: Forces Maintain Control Over All Bases

PA1202202095 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1839 GMT 12 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 12 Feb (DPA)—After 18 days of fighting in which infantry, artillery, and aircraft have participated, Ecuadoran forces maintain all their bases in the area disputed with Peru, and the "softening" [ablandamiento] announced by President Alberto Fujimori has failed, according to the Ecuadoran military command.

"Dozens of journalists from many parts of the world have confirmed that we have not been dislodged from any of our positions," Colonel Jose Grijalva said today in evaluating the military situation at the bases located in the territory both countries claim as their own.

Military analysts in Quito have not ruled out the possibility of Peru opening a new war front, outside the disputed area in the Amazon basin, in view of the impossibility of a military victory in the jungle, where Ecuadoran positions are almost impregnable.

"Fujimori still does not have the war trophy he needs to save him from a political debacle," a local television commentator said.

Large-scale mobilization and the concentration of troops in regions other than the Amazon area, particularly in the Peruvian Department of Tumbes and the Ecuadoran province of El Oro, have intensified rumors that Peru is preparing an offensive in a more favorable terrain, where it could find less resistance.

"We will resist wherever we are attacked," Ecuadoran Defense Minister Jose Gallardo said yesterday, stressing that in the "softening" announced by Fujimori, Peru has lost at least three warplanes and five helicopter gunships "without occupying any Ecuadoran bases."

Antiaircraft Defense Downs 2 Peruvian Fighters

PA1202010795 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2330 GMT 11 Feb 95

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ecuadoran Armed Forces Joint Command disclosed yesterday that the Ecuadoran antiaircraft defense downed two Peruvian fighters and hit a third one.

Armed Forces Report 1 Plane Hit; 9 Killed, 37 Wounded

PA1302023095 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0048 GMT 13 Feb 95

["Press Bulletin No. 25" issued by the Ecuadoran Armed Forces Joint Command in Quito on 12 February—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ecuadoran Armed Forces Joint Command reports to the country:

1. There have been clashes between patrols of the two armies in Cueva de los Tayos and Tihuinza detachments throughout this day.
2. The Ecuadoran Air Force gave air support to the Ecuadoran patrols operating in the Cueva de los Tayos sector. As a result of this support, one of our airplanes was hit by enemy antiaircraft fire and had to return to its base without major problems.
3. A tally of the casualties up to today is as follows: nine killed in combat and 37 wounded.
4. Operations along the battle front remain without any variations.

Congress Approves Bill on Oil Royalties for Armed Forces

PA1002145895 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Feb 95

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Congress, during a second and final debate last night, approved a bill postponing the direct payment of petroleum royalties to the Ecuadoran Armed Forces for 15 more years. Article 49 of the Fossil Fuel Law specifies the state will receive monthly royalties of no less than 12.5 percent of net crude petroleum production, and 30 percent of this 12.5 percent goes to the Armed Forces.

Minister: Ecuador, Peru Could Not Resist Economic Impact

PA1202050295 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0330 GMT 12 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Finance Minister Modesto Correa has warned that Ecuador and Peru could not resist the economic and social impact of [words indistinct] armed confrontation. If the problem persists, no developed or developing economy could resist an economic and social impact of this magnitude. Ecuador has been able to face this military conflict because of the process of economic recovery, Correa has told reporters.

Economic Policy Criticized; Mexico Crisis Viewed

95SM0170B (INTERNET) MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS GOPHER in Spanish 31 Jan 95 p 1

[Commentary by Eduardo Larrea S.: "The Fear of a Contagious Disease" from Quito EL COMERCIO 30 Jan 95 p A4]

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 30 January 1995—A number of economists and political figures fear that the devaluation and the economic turmoil which has occurred in Mexico will spread and also take place in Ecuador—possibly, in their view, on the occasion of the next change of administration in August 1996.

On the basis of a comparison of the economic differences between Mexico and Ecuador it does not appear that there is any danger of that kind. We have a surplus in our trade balance. There was no such surplus in the case of Mexico. There is no deficit in our trade balance, beyond the normal seasonal variations which occur. This was not the case with Mexico. Our budgetary deficit is not a high percentage of our Gross Domestic Product. The rate of exchange of the sucre is not fixed in terms of the U. S. dollar, as happened during the administration of President Salinas in Mexico. In Ecuador there is a certain amount of freedom to import, resulting from a change in foreign trade policy. However, the increase in the level of imports is not yet an explicit problem. In short, the essential indicators are different. So what is happening?

I believe that as 1995 began, some factors have emerged which are stimulating inflation. There is the increase in the price of diesel fuel and a rise in total worker compensation costs through the use of allowances and cost of living adjustments, together with a small increase in the general, minimum wage. Above all, there is uncertainty and harmful prospects in the increase in the state budget.

I am opposed to using fuel of any kind as a basis for tax collections which would vary in the course of a fiscal year. I believe that an increase in total compensation of the workers is justified, up to a certain point. However, it would have been preferable to link it to the already announced unification of the salary system and to the policy which the government intends to follow in the field of social security. Moreover, these uncertain and dubious decisions made in social policy which, after all, will have an impact on economic policy, are not going to lead to any efficient and effective goal.

In my view the most serious problem in economic policy is the increase in the budget and, consequently, in public spending. This will be a burden for the whole country. The government will not be able to develop a firm tendency in the economy and a significant reduction in inflation unless public spending is limited. I believe that the government is confused in using budget equilibrium as an effective and adequate instrument for holding down inflation. That is not possible.

There are tremendous political, social, and trade union problems. Strikes by public employees have turned into the most ridiculous way to demand and obtain, at times, compliance with the budget and other demands for necessities which the government does not have at its disposal or cannot obtain under a system of giving priority to public spending. Furthermore, the problem of decentralization confuses the fiscal atmosphere for achieving satisfactory and essential criteria of a financial nature.

Government Minister, Businessmen Discuss Reforms

95SM0170A Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 24 Jan 95 p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the meeting which Minister of Government and Police Abraham Rivero had with representatives of the Guayaquil Chambers of Production on 23 January, he stated: "There is a general view among the productive sectors of the country that we should go forward with the process of political reforms."

Romero and Carlos Larreategui, secretary general of the administration, as representatives of the president, attended the meeting with spokespersons of the productive sectors. The meeting was held to review questions supported by the broadest consensus which can be presented to the people in the next referendum.

The meeting was held at the Guayaquil Chamber of Commerce. Also attending were Joyce de Ginatta, president of the Chamber of Small Scale Industry of the Province of Guayas; Luis Trujillo Bustamante, president of the Guayaquil Chamber of Commerce; Rodrigo Andrade, president of the Chamber of the Building Industry; Cesar Rohn, president of the Chamber of Fisheries; Werner Moeller, president of the Guayaquil Chamber of Industries; Roberto Illingworth, vice president of the Guayaquil Chamber of Commerce; and Angel Duarte Valverde, governor of the Province of Guayas.

There Is a Consensus

Minister Romero pointed out: "We reviewed the proposal in general. There is a consensus that we should wait a few more days to see what progress the National Congress is making in considering and taking action on the constitutional reform proposal sent to it by the president before we set the agenda for a referendum."

He pointed out that no decision has yet been made on the various subjects which may be involved. They have been considered in a general way, but there is broad agreement on moving forward with the political reforms.

Regarding the work which the National Congress has done in studying the constitutional reforms sent to it by the president, o73 the secretary of state said that the time which the people gave Congress to consider this proposal is now over. Nevertheless, it should not be forgotten that the National Congress is free to determine its course of action. It has the power to consider both the draft sent by the president on matters not presented during the first 100 days of his term of office, as well as other proposals for constitutional reform.

The meeting, which was called a positive one by the secretary of education, was part of the program of contacts being undertaken by the government with various social and productive sectors of the country to identify specifically the subjects on which the people will be asked their views in a referendum.

Support for Modernization

Luis Trujillo Bustamante, president of the Ecuadoran Federation of Chambers of Commerce, said that the meeting served to present to the government two basic suggestions of the business sector: in the next referendum priority should be given to subjects which involve supporting the modernization of the state. As has been announced, a draft law on decentralization will be presented to Congress, providing for the chambers of production to be appropriately represented in that commission. This law will be reviewed with municipalities and provincial councils.

Trujillo stated: "Our position is clear. We wish to express our support for the modernization of the state and the changes necessary to reach that goal. We consider that a statement of our views on whether or not to hold a referendum and whether or not to have reforms can only be made when the subjects to be covered in the referendum are officially known. By meeting with us the government has given us to understand that it wishes to hear the views of the productive sectors in the coastal areas of the country."

He added that a statement of the views of the chambers of production can only be made when the subjects to be contained in the elections are officially known.

Strategic Areas

In the view of Joyce de Ginatta, "We in the chambers are not interested in whether there should be a referendum or not. What is truly important is that constitutional reforms should be announced as soon as possible so that the country can move forward, since at the moment we are all asleep."

She considered that in the referendum the subjects which we should ask ourselves about should be which strategic areas should be controlled by the state. There should be an end to the monopolization of social security. This would amount to decentralization.

She concluded: "These two areas are of fundamental importance. If they are not dealt with, it will be impossible for us to achieve sustained, industrial development, which would make it possible to create more jobs and so benefit the entire country."

Another subject for a possible referendum could be the depoliticization of education, "since no political party can be allowed to use the students to obtain more seats in the National Congress."

The promotion of trade unions in the public sector is another subject which should be considered. She commented: "We cannot go on thinking that some of them are wide awake and the others are stupid." Therefore, this kind of attitude must change.

She commented: "We in the chambers do not wish to express our views on a referendum but rather on reforms in the constitution which we cannot go on just waiting for. Let us hope that we can reach a consensus with the legislative branch of the government that reforms should be undertaken without referring them to a referendum."

Reforms of Social Security

Rodrigo Andrade agreed that all of the productive sectors are interested in constitutional reform. They hope that a consensus will be reached on the matter. If this does not happen, it would be necessary to have a referendum on the matter.

Andrade said that the reform of the social security system "does not mean an attack on any institution. Rather, this is a matter of ensuring that the Ecuadoran people will have a dignified old age and that all pension funds are part of the economic structure of the country. In that way national development would be placed on a more solid basis."

Peru

Fujimori Interviewed on Conflict

PY1002072895 Lima America Television Network in Spanish 0403 GMT 10 Feb 95

["Exclusive" studio interview with President Alberto Fujimori by Pablo Cateriano and Nicolas Lucar during a "special" edition of the "Voto Secreto" program—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Lucar] We welcome President Alberto Fujimori to a special America Television Network program. Good evening, Mr. President.

[Fujimori] Good evening, and thank you for changing your programming to discuss this issue of national interest.

[Lucar] The entire country is waiting for information and answers. We are here with Pablo Cateriano. Good evening, Pablo.

[Cateriano] Good evening, Nico.

[Lucar] Before starting the questions, I would like to discuss the latest news report. The Ecuadoran Government has requested a humanitarian truce from Peru. It has said: Let us stop the shooting. Let us pick up the injured. Let us count the dead.

At this time, according to what has been announced in all the newscasts in the last couple of hours, everyone is anxious to see how Peru will respond to this Ecuadoran Government request.

[Fujimori] We have already responded to them. Well, in principle, Peru has acted with great moderation by respecting the lives and integrity of Ecuadoran citizens, except when on the battlefield.

This request for a truce is nothing more than a maneuver by the Ecuadoreans to distract attention and allegedly show themselves more accessible to an understanding.

In fact, we have granted all the facilities and even authorized the International Red Cross to enter the combat zone, and granted them the proper safety measures.

In view of this, to declare a truce at this stage of the hostilities is unacceptable.

[Lucar] To state it in a colloquial manner, the Ecuadoreans are asking for a breather.

[Fujimori] Yes, they are asking for a breather. [chuckles] Yes, indeed that is precisely what it is, but we will not play their game. A truce will be granted once all Ecuadoran troops are expelled from the region.

[Cateriano] Good evening, Mr. President. I would like to start this interview with a question all Peruvians have been pondering, and which has yet to be answered. When and how did the Ecuadoreans enter Peruvian territory? The conflict has been going on for two weeks. Did we learn they were in Peruvian territory just two weeks ago?

[Fujimori] Look, in fact we cannot specify when the Ecuadoran troops started to infiltrate Peruvian territory. We cannot assert whether it was 1984 or 1992.

[Cateriano] That far back?

[Fujimori] Yes indeed, because this area encompasses a very thick jungle region full of hills. To give you an idea of the situation, let met show you right here on paper: This is where the Cenepa River is located. It goes down to meet the Maranon River. This is the Peruvian side, and the Ecuadoran side is on this part. This area encompasses 70 or so kilometers which have not been demarcated. This is where they have infiltrated our country.

I must note and specify that the Ecuadoran watch posts are located in the hill areas.

[Cateriano] This means that the argument that Ecuador is brandishing right now is correct. They allege that they have been in this territory for several years.

[Fujimori] Yes, look. It is very difficult to avoid an infiltration in a jungle area. We detected it when we noticed greater troop movement, not when...

[Cateriano, interrupting] When did we specifically notice that the Ecuadoreans were in our territory?

[Fujimori] We realized they were organizing themselves on or about October or November. It is then that we proceeded to adopt preventive measures, that is, to prepare our defensive military apparatus so as to be able to confront them.

[Cateriano] This denies, therefore, some foreign press reports stating that Peru was unprepared for an eventual Ecuadoran attack. We have been prepared for an Ecuadoran attack since October or November 1994.

[Fujimori] Look, in truth we were prepared for an eventual defensive war, otherwise we would not have the Sukhoi's, or the Mirage 2000's, or the A-37's, or the Mi-25's in operational condition. Particularly because when we detected this we were forced to adopt some preventive measures, because otherwise it is inexplicable how suddenly we had deployed Mi-25's to Arequipa in [word indistinct] in the north.

[Lucar] There was no surprise, therefore; because as the evidence shows this is not just about the presence of Ecuadoran border watch posts stationed in Peruvian territory, but of a large-scale military operation carefully planned a long time ago? There was no surprise, then? Didn't the Peruvian intelligence service overlook what the Ecuadoran Army was doing?

[Fujimori] Look, I reassert that because this is such a thick jungle region, and in view of the steep hills in the area, it would have been difficult to detect this mobilization through air photography.

These kinds of patrols have been detected, but the border is not demarcated and there has always been a sustained Ecuadoran troop infiltration.

The fact is that they have been preparing for it, but this does not mean we have been taken by surprise. A conflict is won on several fronts. Moreover, Peru has not adopted an offensive attitude.

[Cateriano] When the Foreign Ministry issued that communique two weeks ago, did it do so knowing that a war was imminent?

[Fujimori] The Foreign Ministry issued the communique in response to a communique issued by the guarantor countries praising the fact that Ecuador recognized the Rio de Janeiro Protocol. Since that time, when the Rio de Janeiro Protocol was recognized, we have striven to handle the situation very carefully so as to avoid acting outside the framework of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, which is a notable achievement that we will probably have to discuss later on in more detail.

The Foreign Ministry had taken note. We were already aware of it, and our defensive equipment was already deployed to the area. I reassert that, for example, the Mi-25's—where were they?—were not in Arequipa. They were detached to some areas nearby, from where they could operate. You cannot take Mi-25's, those armored helicopters you have shown on television, with their equipment and pilots, and put them into operation on the spur of the moment. They have to be deployed beforehand.

After we became informed about the entire strategy we implemented this preventive operation, and waited for developments to occur, and particularly for the participation of the guarantor countries.

[Lucar] Mr. President, we Peruvians are clear that what we have been experiencing in these past two weeks is the result of an Ecuadoran initiative, of an Ecuadoran aggression. The image at the international level, however, is completely different. Have we not yielded ground to the Ecuadoreans from the information point of view?

[Fujimori] All this is relative, because when you are acting within reason you act in a cool-headed and calm manner. When you are not being reasonable you start to make noise. Look at the results, because it is the results that count. Your station aired a report that the United States reportedly warned the Ecuadoran Government because of its position. This entire campaign, therefore, does not stand. At first it might deceive. Moreover, we were used to witnessing this kind of campaign every year in January.

For example, the so-called diplomatic offensive launched by Duran-Ballen has not yielded any results, that is, to argue on the basis of the criteria they are upholding yielded no results in the end.

[Cateriano] Excuse me for interrupting, Mr. President, but do you believe that Ecuador has beaten us on the foreign front? Do you believe that right now Ecuador enjoys more credibility among the international press? Ecuador has been welcoming the foreign press, and has granted free satellite time to all the journalists who arrived there. Peru just started today a counteroffensive. Do you believe we have underestimated Ecuador a little in the information war?

[Fujimori] In fact I believe it would have been counterproductive to have engaged in this sort of communications war when the other side had absolutely no grounds.

[Cateriano] Why is that?

[Fujimori] Now...

[Cateriano, interrupting] Why, why was this wrong?

[Fujimori] It was wrong because we would be exhausting ourselves. We would be saturated. We would be engaged in what I would term a news intoxication...

[Cateriano, interrupting] It was not because we believed this would end fast, and that in one week we would be able to expel them?

[Fujimori, interrupting] No, no, no. Not really, because this could take a long time. But where is the news centering its interest right now? On information from Peru. The tables are turning, because what arguments can the Ecuadoreans brandish? With their entire campaign they have promoted offensives and counteroffensives, and they are the only ones responsible for losing this campaign. This is why despite a strategy, a groundless campaign does not achieve the final objective, which is what really counts.

As I have already said, the objective at stake is, one, to dislodge the Ecuadoreans; the medium-term objective is to demarcate the border lines; and of course our international image can be recovered fast because the guarantor countries think that we are right.

[Lucar] What do you think about Vargas Llosa—well, the Vargas Llosa family, really—because Alvaro Vargas Llosa writes in the NEW HERALD that, quote, it is obvious that Peru is responsible for the start of this conflict and for the aggression. His father, in an article published in newspaper EL PAIS, backs his son's statement. Unfortunately, in the last few hours Peruvian journalist and television personality (Jaime Baily) said that he thinks that what Alvaro Vargas Llosa and his father have said is very sensible. What are your views on this?

[Fujimori] Like all Peruvians, that there is no reason to argue that Peru is the aggressor, but that instead Peru is upholding the validity of an international treaty, and that the borders must be (?demarcated) at well-known points.

[Cateriano] Some are speaking about a trial for treason against the fatherland. Do you believe this is fitting?

[Fujimori] Look, it is condemnable for a Peruvian citizen to write and make comments against Peru abroad. This obviously helps to create confusion. Although we respect the ideas of others, I condemn them in this case.

[Lucar] The problem seems to be that Vargas Llosa cannot forgive you for beating him in the presidential elections.

[Fujimori] I do not understand his behavior, because in this case national interests prevail over any other personal or electoral interests.

[Cateriano] Mr. President, before ending this first block, I have another question. Do you believe that this war should only be handled by the government? There are those who say, for example, that the experience of a person like [former President] Belaunde Terry, whose administration was also involved in a war, which it won, would be very helpful. Or that of Ambassador Perez de Cuellar, who is a reputed international negotiator. Why have they not been summoned?

[Fujimori] Look, there are reasons. We did not want to politicize the issue. We have summoned figures from diverse political backgrounds to do a so-called lobby before several governments. In the end it is the administration that is responsible for leading the government. I reassert that this issue should not be politicized, as has been done in Ecuador.

Moreover, for many years—and this is what worries me—for many years, despite the experience of Paquisha and the presence of Peruvian figures in international organizations, not enough support was granted to the guarantor countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol. Let us not overlook the fact that only recently did the United Nations grant its firm support for this issue to be negotiated within the framework of the guarantor countries.

What happened throughout the last decade, during which so many Peruvian personalities were members of international organizations?

[Cateriano] Let us discuss the Rio de Janeiro Protocol and the role of the guarantor countries in the next block, along with the current situation of the negotiations.

[Fujimori] Perfect.

[Cateriano] We continue with this special program with President Alberto Fujimori, with whom we are discussing the issue of the conflict with Ecuador.

Mr. President, we planned to discuss the Rio de Janeiro protocol, but before that I wanted to ask you something else. It is more out of curiosity. When was the last time you talked with the presidents of the guarantor countries?

[Fujimori] Just a few hours before President Duran-Ballen arrived in each one of the capitals of Brazil, Argentina, and Chile... [chuckles]

[Cateriano, interrupting] You did not talk with them afterwards?

[Fujimori] Yes, yesterday I talked with the Chilean president and with Alexander Watson. They have a very clear position about their capacity as members of the guarantor countries.

[Cateriano] Were they dishonest, and did they disclose some of the issues discussed with Duran-Ballen?

[Fujimori] No, they could not be dishonest, but all of them are well aware of the position upheld by the guarantor countries in Rio de Janeiro. These past six days of negotiations show that they are well informed about the issue.

[Cateriano] Does this mean that there is permanent and daily contact with the presidents from the guarantor countries?

[Fujimori] There is constant talk. I have talked several times with each one of the presidents. The last day, when the negotiations were going to be interrupted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazilian President Cardoso phoned me. I explained to him why I disagreed on this, that, and the other issue. What we are seeking is the dislodging of Ecuadoran troops, I said. He understood the situation very well, and I believe that President Duran-Ballen's direct diplomacy has not been necessary.

[Cateriano] When was the last time you talked with Duran-Ballen?

[Fujimori] It was in Miami.

[Cateriano] In Miami?

[Fujimori] No, we did not have a chance to talk at any.... [pauses] Excuse me, we talked on another occasion.

[Cateriano] How did he look?

[Fujimori] A bit nervous.

[Cateriano] Did he look different from the previous meetings you held with him?

[Fujimori] Yes, we had a telephone conversation, and it was quite different.

[Cateriano] Tense?

[Fujimori] Yes, the conversation was tense.

[Lucar] Mr. President, do you believe that President Duran-Ballen is responsible for promoting this war, or, as some have alleged, that this was a decision adopted by Defense Minister Jose Gallardo?

[Fujimori] We can speculate some on this issue, because when Peru welcomes Ecuador's recognition of the Rio de Janeiro protocol, a recognition that is confirmed during a television interview by the Ecuadoran foreign minister, when Peru welcomes this recognition...

[Lucar, interrupting] ...the military intervention occurs.

[Fujimori, interrupting] ...two hours later there is a military reaction.

[Lucar] It is unprecedented for an Ecuadoran president and an Ecuadoran foreign minister to accept the Rio de Janeiro Protocol as the proper framework...

[Fujimori, interrupting] Yes, of course. There are undoubtedly two trends here: One is that of the military, and probably that of some recalcitrant politicians who support the upholding of that irrational position; while the other is that upheld by some sectors, as is already becoming obvious in some Quito press reports.

[Lucar] Is President Duran-Ballen a kind of prisoner of the military, who want the war at any cost...

[Fujimori, interrupting] I could not...

[Lucar, interrupting] ...and who did not like at all for Duran-Ballen to have accepted the protocol despite not agreeing with it?

[Fujimori] Look, it was in fact for us a bold step. We were surprised. We read a communique issued by the Ecuadoran National Security Council. We doubted whether this meant the implementation of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, but when the following day Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Galo Leoro made this televised statement, we definitely said: Well, Ecuador has taken a bold step forward to at last recognize the Rio Protocol, after 35 years, in order to definitely demarcate the 70-odd kilometers.

We had to take advantage of this situation in the best possible manner, that is, we had to compel Ecuador to act within the framework of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol. We immediately responded to the appeal issued by the foreign ministers of the guarantor countries, and sent our deputy foreign minister. Meanwhile, Ecuador was involved in this back and forth game, and delayed the meeting for over 20 hours.

[Cateriano] After all this, one thing has become clear, Mr. President. Duran-Ballen wants the negotiations with the guarantor countries to fail. He does not want anything to come out of these talks. I imagine that despite Ecuador's intention to take the matter to institutions and organizations such as the OAS and the Hague International Court of Justice, we will continue to deal with the guarantor countries.

[Fujimori] Look, you just asked me about President Duran-Ballen's diplomatic effort and why was I not doing the same thing. I can tell you openly, without being indiscreet, that the Ecuadoran president has returned to Quito empty-handed. He did not obtain anything from Argentina, Chile, or Brazil.

[Lucar] Rather, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher today somehow urged Ecuador to seek an agreement with Peru within the framework of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol; that is, there is no chance at this time of reaching an agreement outside the protocol and the action of the guarantor countries.

[Fujimori] Look, this is something very important. There are several developments that allow us to say that Ecuador is already acting within the framework of the protocol. First, its attendance—which we may consider to have been induced—at the meeting of the guarantor countries in Rio de Janeiro. Then, President Duran-Ballen's visit to each of the presidents of the South American guarantor countries. What does this mean? It simply means that Ecuador recognizes the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, it recognizes the guarantor countries. If it were true, the late report on Mr. Christopher's remarks would just confirm the firm position adopted by the guarantor countries, which is favorable to us to once and for all complete the demarcation process. Thus, our strategy to lead Ecuador to act within the Rio Protocol is working.

[Cateriano] Right. We are acting within the protocol. Discussions are being held within the protocol, but the war is being waged inside our territory which, according to the protocol, should be easily identified by each of the guarantor countries. Why then has none of the guarantor countries said to the world: Listen, the war is being waged in Peruvian territory.

[Fujimori] Before going into that subject, I would like to wrap up my idea as to where and at what level and framework the issue should be discussed. Right? For instance, it has been said that it should be the OAS. Some countries and Ecuador itself initially requested that the issue be discussed at the OAS. The OAS simply issued a communique endorsing the efforts of the guarantor countries. In a communique signed by Mr. Butrus-Ghali, the United Nations did the same. In short, Butrus-Ghali said: Gentlemen, you should discuss this issue with the guarantor countries. I believe this has been an extremely important step forward within this framework.

Now, there is no doubt the conflict is taking place within Peruvian territory, and that is why we can act freely. If you agree, we may already go into the military aspect, unless you have another question.

[Cateriano] All I want to know is why the guarantor countries do not recognize that, why have they not stated their position?

[Fujimori] They have recognized it, in reality they have.

[Cateriano, interrupting] But have they recognized it in private?

[Fujimori] No. [corrects himself] Of course, in private. We respect the Rio Protocol which, like any protocol, has its pros and cons and certain limitations. The protocol says: The guarantor countries will help the parties to reach an agreement. They ought to simply help, they cannot force either party. Thus, this is the role played by the guarantor countries and, in this case, they have done more than help.

[Lucar] Mr. President, I believe that not only the Peruvians but the Ecuadoreans too are concerned about how much this war is costing us. Our goals are different: We are trying to overcome underdevelopment, to open up to the world, to open markets, and to privatize, but all of a sudden we are engaged in a war that is costing us all that we have saved.

[Fujimori] Incidentally, Peru did not provoke this conflict. Ecuador may have been planning it for who knows how long. Yet, a conflict is not only won on the press, diplomatic, or military fronts, but also on the economic front. A solid economy represents a very strong wall for any country.

[Cateriano] Have they perhaps thought that it is now or never, that our economy is already....

[Fujimori, interrupting] Perhaps....

[Cateriano]... that our monthly inflation has declined to 0.4 percent.

[Fujimori] In fact, we could even draw a conclusion like that. They may have thought that Peru is now becoming very solid, if they fail, fail to overcome us now, they will never do it. Yet, they have found that Peru, economically and figuratively speaking, has become a huge wall. As you can see, this conflict will hardly affect our economy.

[Lucar] But, it is costing us much money.

[Fujimori] I have said how much it is costing us. Even though this has been a secret resolution. I believe, however, that there is no reason for not making it public. We have earmarked 25 million soles to cover expenses by the Armed Forces, basically to pay for fuel and mobilization costs because, I repeat, our military equipment was up to date, ready.

Let us increase it to 50 million soles which, for such a solid economy like that of Peru....

[Lucar, interrupting] Is this the overall spending?

[Fujimori] Yes. It is the overall spending.

[Lucar] Thus, the $8 million daily cited by (Alejandro Boero) [not further identified] is an exaggerated figure.

[Fujimori] No, no. It is the overall figure. Those are outright exaggerations. Here we can draw some clear conclusions: If we spend an additional 25 million soles out of a budget of 15 billion soles, it would be just a drop in the bucket. Undoubtedly, it is just....

[Lucar, interrupting] There will be no war taxes, then. There will be no bonds....

[Fujimori, interrupting] No, we do not need it because we have a well-balanced budget....

[Cateriano, interrupting] Today, the Ecuadoran Congress approved a war tax levying 2 percent on personal vehicles, to raise $100 million.

[Fujimori] That shows the difference existing between the Ecuadoran and Peruvian economies. Right? As you know, the Ecuadoran economy is not doing well. There are parameters indicating that it is somewhat declining. Instead, our economic situation is very solid.

[Lucar] It has been said that the privatization proceeds would be used to finance this war....

[Fujimori] False ....

[Lucar] ....that money earmarked for social projects could be ultimately used to finance the war.

[Fujimori] Look, I would like to practically demonstrate how much 25 million soles represent. I always think in terms of schools because education is so important. Of course, with 25 million soles we could have built eight or nine schools, but we must defend the country and evict the Ecuadoreans from our territory once and for all. Thus, 25 million soles is nothing and will in no way affect our stabilization program. This means that there will no issuance of currency, there will be no extra spending, and there will be no fiscal imbalance that could cause an inflation upsurge.

[Lucar] Engineer Fujimori, the Ecuadoran Government insists on giving its version. They say that Tihuinza, Cueva de los Tayos, and Base Sur are in their hands and that they are resisting. What is the reality, what is happening?

[Fujimori] See here, they can say this and they are possibly lying to their people, the Ecuadoran people, so that they can obtain the people's support for the war.

But, when in the end they discover the truth, then something may happen, something that the Argentines experienced during the Malvinas War: They suddenly came to the conclusion that they were losing the war, that they had lost the war, that the people had been deceived.

We have definitively taken Cueva de los Tayos and the so-called Base Sur. As a matter of fact... we could go..

[Lucar, interrupting] Can we go?

[Fujimori continuing] ...we will go...

[Lucar, interrupting] Can we go on Sunday?

[Fujimori] Yes, of course. I believe that it would be the best demonstration...

[Lucar, interrupting] Let's take a look at Base Sur on Sunday, and...

[Fujimori] Of course...

[Lucar, interrupting] ...and show the clip during the "Sunday Review" program...

[Fujimori] ...still running some risks, but...

[Lucar,interrupting] ...I take your word for it...

[Fujimori] ...it has definitively been taken.

[Lucar, interrupting] I take your word for it. We go to Base Sur on Sunday.

[Fujimori] Yes, we will go.

[Cateriano] Are the Ecuadoreans still attacking Base Sur, does it continue to receive...

[Fujimori, interrupting] No... [corrects himself] Yes, there are. And, I will explain why.

[Cateriano] So that information is true?

[Fujimori] Yes, it is true because... Since you are asking me this question, I have not brought the maps, but allow me to briefly explain how it would be, how the conflict is.

[Fujimori] Here we have Cueva de los Tayos, which I will mark thus [draws on a piece of paper] because it has been taken. Then here in front of it we have an Ecuadoran base in its territory that is called Coangos. Thus, every now and then there is mortar fire from Coangos.

The Peruvian troops have implemented a defense emplacement that allows them to defend themselves from this mortar fire.

Further north of Cueva de los Tayos we have Base Sur, which has also been consolidated by our troops.

Toward the north we have Tihuinza, which we will talk about later on in a more detailed manner.

[Cateriano] Can we also speak about the number of troops? How many persons are on the northern border? How many soldiers?

[Fujimori] Look here, I cannot really give the figure publicly because this is confidential information. But, we have a good number of men...

[Cateriano] Do we have more men than they do?

[Fujimori] Undoubtedly. More than they have, and not only more, they are troops that are accustomed to this type of combat because we have had experience against Shining Path in the jungle area.

[Cateriano] So we have recovered Base Sur. They had held Base Sur. What did we find in Base Sur when we arrived? What equipment did they have? What did they have?

[Fujimori] Well, basically they had men and a logistical infrastructure in order to supply themselves. There in Base Sur and in Cueva de los Tayos...

[Cateriano] Canons? Missiles?

[Fujimori] Each of the contenders had... Yes, there were some, what do you call them, antiaircraft guns and several types of machine guns.

Several of them have been recovered, they have been taken, and they had a large quantity...

[Cateriano] How many persons have died in the taking of Base Sur?

[Fujimori] I can tell you how many men we have lost. Regarding the Ecuadoreans, the loss is comparatively large. Up to three hours ago the dead, dead men who are really heroes of this war, numbered 36, 29 from the Army and seven crewmen of aircraft that have been considered as missing. The total is 36 dead and 60 wounded.

[Lucar] There was talk about missing persons. During a briefing to Congress yesterday, the defense minister ...

[Fujimori] That is correct.

[Lucar] ... said there were 70 missing soldiers. Could there then be 100 casualties if we expect the worst in the case of the missing soldiers?

[Fujimori] No, I can now confirm what happened. It all started when the Ecuadoran position in Coangos shelled Base Sur and Cueva de los Tayos. At that moment the Peruvian soldiers scattered to the forest because if they had been altogether they would have become an easier target. Some of them got lost. Of the 60 that had lost contact with their command, 15 returned first, another 25 were found later and today General [Nicolas de Bari] Hermoza informed me just before coming to this program that the remaining 20 are back. This means that 60 should not be counted as casualties.

[Lucar] And how about helicopters? Ecuadoreans contend that they have shot down four Peruvian helicopters.

[Fujimori] Well, they can say whatever they want. In fact, they are saying all sorts of things like for example that they have not moved from the area. We have had some accidents with helicopters, two to be more precise. One should recall that that is a hilly area where fog abounds. A Canberra plane was also lost during an operation.

[Cateriano] So is it not true that the helicopter that we reported missing yesterday or the day before yesterday, I do not remember well, has been shot down as the Ecuadoreans claim in a news agency report?

[Fujimori] You find all sorts of reports, but the truth is that the helicopter seemingly crashed against a mountain during an operation because Mi-25 helicopter gunships do not fly very high so as to hit the target.

[Cateriano] You are the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, Mr. President. Have you ever thought—perhaps before falling asleep or during a moment of silence—about the duration of this conflict? How long is this going to last? Have you ever established a deadline? Will the war continue to be localized in the area where it is being waged now, fighting in our territory rather than in Ecuadoran territory, shedding blood in our territory rather than in Ecuadoran territory?

[Fujimori] Unfortunately, this is a situation the Ecuadoran Government provoked. We find ourselves in this situation, but citizens may rest assured that we are seeking two objectives, which I think were not achieved in the past. The first one—which has been the same over the 53 years in which the Rio de Janeiro Protocol has been in force—is the total dislodging of the Ecuadoran troops that have infiltrated Peruvian territory.

[Cateriano] We are not going to attack Ecuadoran territory?

[Fujimori] We, Peruvians, will not take that initiative because what we are seeking is to defend our territory rather than taking the offensive against Ecuador. There is no point in doing that. It has not even crossed our mind to conquer Ecuadoran territory.

[Lucar, interrupting] Sorry to interrupt you, Mr. President, but do intelligence services contemplate the idea that—in the same way Ecuador took the initiative to attack Peruvian posts—the conflict may spread to other areas?

[Fujimori] No possibilities should be discarded. We have taken the necessary precautions in the event that possibility should indeed happen, but I repeat that would then be a true war, an air and ground war. If that should happen I think we are fairly ...

[Lucar, interrupting] But if Ecuadorans took that step would Peru continue with its theory of not advancing into Ecuadoran territory. Let us suppose Ecuadoreans attack some other village like Tumbes or any border town?

[Fujimori] In that case there would be an escalation of the conflict that I am sure neither party nor the international community wants. Let us suppose they attack Ciro Alegria...

[Lucar, interrupting] ...or Bagua.

[Fujimori] That would elicit a response on our part that would be three times greater on other ...

[Lucar, interrupting] Like Loja, Cuenca, Guayaquil ...

[Fujimori] Of course, of course.

[Lucar] That would only happen then if Ecuadorans...

[Fujimori, interrupting] Naturally.

[Lucar, continues] ...attacked us. We would not trespass their territory.

[Fujimori] The only thing that we are striving for at the moment is to attain the first objective. In this regard, we are adamant [he says emphatically]. This is why we do not accept this truce they have requested either. We will dislodge them. The second objective—I have already digressed a bit. There were two objectives, the first one was to expel all Ecuadoran troops from our territory and the second objective is the demarcation, which we have to do at some point.

[Lucar] Now.

[Fujimori] Of course, now. Now because even the guarantor countries...

[Lucar, interrupting] It is the right time...

[Fujimori, continues] ...the guarantor countries have the obligation of pushing... of course it is the best time.

[Lucar] If this conflict does not conclude with the border markers in place then no one can guarantee us that within two, three, or five years time we will not be doing the same thing.

[Fujimori] It would not be strange to find ourselves in a similar conflict in January 1997. Thus, the best thing to do is close the border once and for all and put the border markers up, even though the border markers are not necessary in the zone because one can clearly observe the edge. We have the crest of the Condor Mountain Range and that is the borderline that was outlined by arbitrator Navy Captain Braz Diaz de Aguiar. There can be absolutely no discussion on this topic.

[Lucar] Mr. President, I would like us to return after a break to broadcast commercials to talk about what one could call the final battle of this conflict. The battle of Tihuinza. We will return after the commercials to continue talking. [commercial break]

[Lucar] We continue with this special program of America Television on the conflict with Ecuador. Here we are back with the president, Engineer Alberto Fujimori.

Engineer Fujimori, it is presupposed that Tihuinza is a much more important base than Base Sur and Cueva de los Tayos. That there is a larger concentration of Ecuadoran troops, that there are antiaircraft artillery, that it has been mined. All this information that has been released but not confirmed, is it true? Is it a very important base?

[Fujimori] See here, in reality it was an Ecuadoran position, we cannot call it a base, but when we entered it they had cut down the forest and they have mounted a complete organization. And, as we advanced they used their helicopters to leave more troops and equipment there.

Thus, Tihuinza... Look here, we cannot say that this battle is being fought on a conventional battle ground. It is a zone where there are very steep mountains, and the Army has had to first take all the high positions that surround Tihuinza.

If you will allow me...

[Lucar, interrupting] Yes, I have a map...

[Fujimori, continuing] ...I can give you...

[Lucar, interrupting] Here, I do not know whether the camera can focus on this [displays map of conflict area]...

[Fujimori, continuing] ...some details...

[Lucar] ... here we are...

[Fujimori] That is right. [Fujimori uses ballpoint pen to indicate locations] This blue circle is Coangos from where they fire their mortars against Base Sur and Cueva de los Tayos...

[Cateriano, interrupting] What is the distance, Mr. President, between our positions and theirs?

[Fujimori] Approximately 3 and ½ km.

[Cateriano] It is very close, no?

[Fujimori] It is relatively close, and here we have Tihuinza. Thus, in the rear guard of Tihuinza, the northern part, they, the Ecuadorans, have opened a supply base and therefore the taking of it has been complicated. It has taken us more time than we expected.

But, we have it surrounded. We have taken the most important high ground and today, for example, in one of the many operations—I can show you how this assault is being carried out to prevent losses among our troops—today we conducted saturation bombing in the forest area. We have to carry out these saturation bombing raids because it is a wooded zone, and we did it with no less than 16 planes. None of the planes were lost. It is not true that every time we go in...

[Lucar] Is this why the Ecuadoran Government is asking for a truce?

[Fujimori] Probably.

[Cateriano] Mr. President, has today's attack been the strongest of all?

[Fujimori] It has been a strong attack, not the strongest, there have been strong attacks carried out by our Air Force. And, this attack was carried out today at 1400 in full daylight against targets that were monitored by the Army and given to the Air Force.

[Cateriano] Those who have been to the zone say it is very difficult for Peruvians and very easy for Ecuadorans to get there. Is this true? How do the Ecuadorans get to the zone?

[Fujimori] Yes, Ecuadorans come in through the Coango River pass, they arrive in Bandera through this narrow trail, and from there they infiltrate these zones.

[Lucar] Is it true that the zone around the bases is mined, that there are caves, and that they have dug tunnels?

[Fujimori] Yes, they are well organized in that zone; that is why we carried out that massive bombing today; that is why the zone was softened up, as it is said in military terms, and the troops are ready for an assault, which as you can well imagine will have to be carried out ...

[Lucar, interrupting] a final assault.

[Fujimori] Yes.

[Lucar] It is a war in the style of Vietnam, the old-fashioned way, hand to hand, practically.

[Fujimori] Yes, of course, it is a hand-to-hand battle given the terrain. We cannot use tanks because they cannot get there. The best way is through commandos.

[Cateriano] The question the people ask is, how much longer will the bombings last? How much longer will clashes last until Tihuinza is occupied?

[Fujimori] I would rather announce things as they happen. I do not want to anticipate events...

[Cateriano, interrupting] But your smile gives you away.

[Fujimori] Well, [laughs] I am very optimistic...

[Cateriano, interrupting] You think we are close?

[Fujimori] Yes, we are. We are in a very firm position. We will not retreat. I will not allow Ecuadorans, either civilians or military, to stay here. They will be totally dislodged from the zone by fair means or by other means.

[Lucar] Much has been said about the situation of Peruvians in Ecuador. We have witnessed the mistreatment to which they were submitted. First we witnessed how two Peruvian journalists were beaten. No explanation was given for this. The remarkable thing is that the Peruvians, the journalists in this case, were being guarded but nonetheless they were beaten. We have the testimonies of common, peaceful citizens who have nothing to do with the armed conflict from the military point of view, who have been beaten in Ecuador. What is the status of this issue?

[Fujimori] The press and television have been very explicit in reporting this beating. Through diplomatic means we pressured for the eradication of this behavior. The International Red Cross and other organizations, human rights defense organizations, in this case are not doing anything. Unfortunately we have this case of mistreatment against Peruvian citizens which has nothing to do with the conflict because they are not military personnel, just simple residents in the zone.

[Cateriano, interrupting] Sorry for interrupting, but do you think this relates to the education the people receive in Ecuador. We must say it, they practically hate us, right?

[Fujimori] No. I do not think that is so because...

[Cateriano, interrupting] They don't like us, do they?

[Fujimori] When I was in Monte...

[Lucar, interrupting] Sorry, but I remember you said: I could be a candidate in Ecuador, and win.

[Fujimori] You have seen how in the squares how the masses have been incited through harangues and deceit. In fact, the whole thing was just a smokescreen to cover up certain things.

[Cateriano] You do not share my point of view, do you?

[Fujimori] About them hating us? I do not think they hate us...

[Cateriano, interrupting] They want revenge.

[Fujimori] It is probably true that there is a wound that has yet not healed because of a certain group of military chiefs. Given Peru's peace-seeking but firm attitude I am sure they will get over it, especially once the demarcation lines have been defined.

But look, we watched on the television Peruvian journalists being beaten. Peruvian journalists have been followed and the media has been censored. Any reports carried by Peruvian television that is normally seen in Ecuador are not being disseminated there. There is censorship because the Ecuadorans are being deceived, they are not being informed about what is really happening. It is a weakness on the part of Ecuador. I believe Peruvians have behaved quite sensibly without unnecessarily attacking Ecuadoran citizens. Ecuadoran reporters in Peru have been cordially received; they are able to discharge their duties perfectly well...

[Cateriano, interrupting] They were even allowed into Government House.

[Fujimori] Of course, because we are not afraid of them at all.

[Cateriano] Mr. President, the situation in Ecuador is different from here. I have a cable reporting that Ecuadoreans are concerned because tourism has declined. We have already discussed war taxes and the handling of the economy in Ecuador. There is talk about a possible run on the banks, too. None of these things happened in Peru. There is to some extent stability here. The atmosphere of war is only prevalent in the northern front where hostilities are taking place. Will this normalcy continue as regards the elections? Will elections be held anyway?

[Fujimori] Permit me to lay more emphasis on economic matters because they are very important. In Ecuador, many constraints have been imposed on the withdrawal of savings. Although no official communique has been released stating that the government allows citizens to withdraw up to $1,000, the truth is that when they go to the banks they are requested to only withdraw certain amounts. There has also been a decline in foreign reserves which—considering the size of the Ecuadoran economy—has been quite considerable. In Peru, on the contrary, despite the drop in the Stock Exchange—which has now rallied—there is stability. I would not say there is stability to some extent as you mentioned: I would venture to say there is total stability.

[Cateriano] Total stability, really? Nothing has happened then?

[Fujimori] Total stability from an economic standpoint because 25 million soles for us was not ...

[Cateriano, interrupting] You have just said the Stock Exchange plunged. I do not know if the privatization process will to a certain extent be affected by the armed conflict as investors begin to doubt the wisdom of investing in our country when there is an armed conflict going on.

[Fujimori] No, incidentally we had already announced that during the election period we were going to restrict privatizations. This measure came before the conflict. Investments have not stopped, the flow of investments continues. Commitments have already been made to invest some $5 billion because there is confidence in the country and that is real economic stability.

[Cateriano, interrupting] Sorry to interrupt, Mr. President, but you have not answered my question. Will there be elections?

[Fujimori] Of course.

[Cateriano] In April, on schedule?

[Fujimori] There is no reason to believe there should be any changes in the date of the election ...

[Cateriano, interrupting] The thing is that the opposition has been saying lately that you might suspend or postpone the elections.

[Fujimori] Look, we called elections when the Shining Path was really active throughout the country and we were engaged in a veritable domestic war. How can anybody think we are going to suspend elections on account of a conflict that only affects one specific area?

[Lucar, interrupting] Over a little war, if you like.

[Fujimori] Over a little war, over some skirmishes in which we have the military power and are upholding our rights which stem from an international treaty. Thus, in no way can it be assumed there could be a suspension or a postponement of elections. At least in my opinion, the electoral timetable must be normally observed.

[Cateriano] Have you had the chance to talk with Peruvian businessmen and foreign investors during the past two weeks?

[Fujimori] I have not had the chance to do that, but I perceive that there is confidence in Peru. For instance, investments continue to be made in mining and industries.

[Cateriano] A few weeks ago Ecuadoran bankers bought shares in a Peruvian bank. The Ecuadorans themselves....

[Fujimori, interrupts chuckling].... have more confidence in Peru than in their own country.

[Lucar] Mr. President, you said that by the end of your presidential term on 28 July 1995, there will be no more acts of terrorism in Peru, at least by the Shining Path or by the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement. Will we have markers on the 78-km remaining stretch of the border by 28 July 1995?

[Fujimori] I cannot promise that. I cannot do that. We will, however, pave the way for the guarantor countries, together with Peru and Ecuador—once this conflict stage is over—to start demarcating the area. This will not be a complicated process because we will not engage in discussions as to which way the borderline goes. The borderline has already been established....

[Lucar, interrupting] By the protocol.

[Fujimori] By the protocol.

[Lucar] How do you think this conflict will end? Once the Peruvian Armed Forces—the Army, Air Force, and Navy—have forced the Ecuadoran Armed Forces to the other side of the border? What will come next? The matter will not end there, right?

[Fujimori] Look, the guarantor countries are seeking—and Peru concurs—to simultaneously bring about a cease-fire and the withdrawal of Ecuadoran troops. Then we must take advantage of the opportunity in which the guarantor countries are very active and holding a firm, steady position to once and for all complete the demarcation.

I believe we should not miss this opportunity because for 35 years Ecuador had not even recognized—nor have the guarantor countries forced it to recognize—the Rio Protocol. I believe this is partly a result of our great success and of our strategy to make the Peruvian borderline and an international treaty respected. We cannot afford to yield one inch there.

[Cateriano] Mr. President, we have run out of time. Before closing, however, I would like to ask you a question. Are you sorry you visited Ecuador in light of the fact that Duran-Ballen returned your visit with missiles, troops, helicopter gunships, and leaving dead people behind?

[Fujimori] I am not sorry because we believe in the integration of the Americas. If a member of the military leadership, or members of the political leadership are manipulating the masses, this fact alone should not cause the integration among our countries to fail. This is one problem we have experienced in Latin America; that is, efforts were made to cause fragmentation among us instead of seeking the unity of Latin America to make it a strong economic bloc. I believe the idea of a bloc should be ruled out and we must continue to work in this direction following two guidelines: With a little patience the Ecuadoran people can be made to realize which is the best overall Latin American approach, at the same time acting firmly to make them understand that they will touch Peru.

[Cateriano] Would you go back to Ecuador?

[Fujimori] When conditions are appropriate. I would naturally expect reciprocity from the Ecuadoran side. Incidentally, despite everything, the Peruvian people are hospitable and generous. After the troops have been evicted and conditions are appropriate, we will seek for ways to promote understanding.

[Cateriano] Thank you very much, Mr. President.

[Fujimori] Thank you for your invitation.

[Cateriano] Thank you very much too for your courtesy of having allowed us to be the first media organization to report to the whole country about developments on the battle front.

[Fujimori] Well, do not forget....

[Lucar, interrupting] On Sunday [12 February], we will be going to Base Sur and, if possible, to Tihuinza.

[Fujimori] To prove, to witness that Base Sur and Cueva de los Tayos are entirely in our hands.

[Lucar] I will wear my commando gear and will go with you, Mr. President. I will take you up on this.

[Fujimori, chuckling] Great.

[Cateriano] Thank you.

[Fujimori] Good night.

Fujimori Discusses War, Election in News Conference

PY1202012895 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1921 GMT 11 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lima, 11 Feb (EFE)—On 11 February, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori told foreign journalists that the war between Ecuador and Peru is escalating dangerously and that there is no immediate cessation of hostilities on the horizon.

Fujimori confirmed that three Peruvian fighter planes—two Sukhoi airplanes and an A-37—were shot down on 10 February and that a helicopter was lost in the battlefront. He also ruled out a possible military invasion of Ecuador by Peru. He stated: "We have no intention whatsoever of invading Ecuador. That idea never crossed our minds."

During the first news conference Fujimori held with members of the foreign press accredited in Lima since the outbreak of the armed conflict with Ecuador, the head of state acknowledged that the conflict had "escalated to unforeseeable levels due to the swiftness with which things have happened." He indicated that Peru is doing its utmost so that the situation does not worsen. He added: "We are exercising extreme caution in handling things in order to prevent a further escalation of the conflict, because of the consequences that it might have on the security of the region, and also to end the useless loss of more lives."

Having pointed out that all border conflicts with Ecuador have taken place in Peruvian territory, Fujimori reiterated that his country "is not the aggressor" in the conflict and that "it is only defending its sovereignty and its territory."

He accused Ecuador of moving its border checkpoints to Peruvian territory and of then claiming that that was Ecuadoran territory. By way of example, Fujimori said that the Ecuadoran checkpoint at Cueva de los Tallos was always located on the banks of the Santiago River, on the west slope of the Condor mountain range, and that now it is located on the banks of the Cenepa River, on the eastern slope of the Condor mountain range.

The Peruvian head of state said he would rather not establish any time limit for the capture of the Ecuadoran garrison of Tihuinza, which has come under attack by Peruvian forces for more than a week. He reiterated, however, that the attack on Tihuinza continues with shelling and infantry attacks so that it will "give in."

Fujimori stated that the death toll on the Peruvian side is the following: 36 dead, 60 wounded, and at least 10 missing soldiers. Even though he called these figures "absolutely correct," other well-informed sources report that the number of Peruvian casualties including dead, wounded, and missing persons, amounts to at least 150.

Having indicated that six Ecuadoran soldiers fell before the Peruvian onslaught on Tihuinza on 8 February while only three Peruvians were wounded, Fujimori declined to provide additional information about the death toll on the Ecuadoran side, but said that "it must be considerably higher."

The head of state also declined to give details about the total cost of the war and only reported that his administration has approved an additional appropriation of $10 million to defray war costs. This notwithstanding, the cost of the three aircraft that were shot down on 9 February and of the other three helicopters lost in the conflict far exceeds the amount mentioned by the Peruvian president.

With regard to diplomatic endeavors, he said that he proposed separating the combat forces and demilitarizing the conflict area with the supervision of observers sent by the guarantor countries.

The Peruvian proposal entails the concentration of Ecuadoran forces at Coangos base located on the western slope of the Condor mountain range and of the Peruvian forces at checkpoint No. 1 on the eastern slope of the said mountain range. Fujimori contended, however, that this would only constitute a temporary solution to the border conflict and that his government wants to find "a definite solution" to the problem. According to Fujimori, this definite solution would entail the definite demarcation of the border between Peru and Ecuador by enforcing the Rio de Janeiro Protocol "by common agreement by the parties and with the support of the guarantor countries" of that protocol (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States).

He then revealed some previously unknown details about the peace negotiations held between the feuding parties and the guarantor countries in Brazil, which failed when Ecuador refused to sign the proposal that negotiators had already approved. According to Fujimori, Ecuador first raised an objection to replacing the word "withdraw" both countries' troops with "concentrate," and to naming the agreement "declaration" instead of "agreement" so that it would not be necessary to have it ratified by the Ecuadoran Congress.

The president accepted the inclusion of a clause proposed by Ecuador which stated that the names of the military bases mentioned in the declaration "are not definite."

Fujimori said: "We hoped that after the concessions we had made, the Ecuadoran Government would sign a cease-fire, but much to our and guarantors' frustration, it refused to do so."

He later referred to the "bombardment of information" on the war by Ecuador and charged the latter with releasing erroneous information, which only served "to add fuel to the flames." He added that "if we had acted in a like manner perhaps peace negotiations would not have been held and there would have been a greater escalation of the war. This is why we preferred to proceed with caution and handle the situation with the necessary prudence."

Fujimori ruled out a possible suspension of Peruvian general elections slated for 9 April on account of the conflict and commented that in the past, elections were called in Peru "amidst an internal war that spread throughout the country."

"Anyway, the date of the election remains unchanged," he emphasized.

Further on News Conference

PY1202020995 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2313 GMT 11 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] During the first news conference with the foreign journalists since the outbreak of hostilities with Ecuador a fortnight ago, President Alberto Fujimori acknowledged that two supersonic Sukhoi aircraft and an A-37 support airplane were shot down by Ecuadoran artillery. He stated that the pilot of the A-37 and one of the pilots of the Sukhoi aircraft ejected and thus managed to survive. With regard to the fight to capture the Tihuinza garrison, Fujimori said that Peruvian troops control the main hills surrounding the place. [passage omitted]

The head of state denied that Peru was using chemical weapons in this conflict. He also ruled out the possibility of Ecuador having sovereign outlet to the Amazon River since he contended that a peaceful solution to the armed conflict can only be based on the Rio de Janeiro Protocol.

Final Assault Against Ecuadoran Troops Being Prepared

PY1002164495 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1444 GMT 10 Feb 95

[Live relay by "special correspondent" Ismael Byron Horna in Bagua to station announcer Guido Lombardi]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Horna] Good morning, Guido. We are here in our relay station in Bagua, in the Amazonas Department. We have many things to say about the situation in different places like El Milagro military base, Valor military airport, and here in Bagua Province.

[Lombardi] Unofficial reports are circulating in Lima that Peru is about to launch a final offensive against the Tihuinza garrison. What information do you have? Have there been further troop movements? What can you tell us?

[Horna] Well, Guido, the Peruvian Army is preparing for a final offensive against the Ecuadorans—the invading Army of the north. We have a last-minute report on this offensive to recover the area of Tihuinza. A delegation of Army officers and of the School of Higher Military Studies who have taken courses abroad has arrived at El Milagro military base to advise the marines and the soldiers of the Peruvian Army who are stationed at El Milagro base. An official communique or information on this counteroffensive in Tihuinza is expected at any minute. We reporters covering this conflict are suffering the ravages of the region itself like mosquito bites and dehydration—we have to drink about 10 liters of fluid.

[Lombardi] What is the temperature in Bagua?

[Horna] 37 degrees centigrade, but the temperature rises to 40 degrees in the evening.

[Lombardi] It is a very humid area. Have you been to the (Imacita) base?

[Horna] Yes, we have. From there we went to the Cenepa River in a motor boat, but as you know, Guido, the Peruvian Army keeps a close watch on that area and does not allow the press to enter unless journalists have a special permit. Nevertheless, a high-ranking officer at El Milagro military base authorized us to travel a bit further up from the Cenepa River accompanied, of course, by Peruvian military personnel. We could see a great mobilization of troops in motor boats and helicopters that overfly the zone and land in some places that have already been cleared, but which we cannot reveal. I could see a state of preparation and the Cenepa River has become a main artery both for the

Peruvian Army and the Red Cross for the transport of the wounded, provisions, ammunition, and medicine.

[Lombardi] I would like to know how many reporters are in the area of Bagua—just an estimate—and what happened to the flight on which members of the foreign press traveled to that area? Did they go to Bagua or to other places further up?

[Horna] There are about 30 of us in Bagua—all reporters from the Lima media—or 35 if photographers are included. The foreign correspondents who arrived at El Milagro base yesterday at the invitation of the Peruvian Government and the Promperu Commission are stranded at the Ciro Alegria base. They were to have continued their trip today, but as our correspondent Jorge Fernandez must have already told you, adverse weather conditions prevented them from doing so. The pilots of the Antonov aircraft who were to have taken the 30 foreign reporters to checkpoint No. 1 have so far been unable to do so and are waiting for weather conditions to improve, since the storm continues. More foreign journalists are scheduled to arrive at El Milagro Base today. They will join the other 30 or 35 who are already at the Ciro Alegria base and wait until the weather clears up to travel to checkpoint No. 1.

[Lombardi] Well, Ismael, thank you for your information. We eagerly await your next report. I hope you will be able to get beyond (Imacita) to the area under conflict with the help of the Peruvian Army. Take care.

Armed Forces Communique Confirms Downing of Three Planes

PY1202015995 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2313 GMT 11 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Peruvian Armed Forces Joint Command issued an official communique today in which it confirms the downing of three Peruvian aircraft by the Ecuadoreans. The communique states that on 10 February at 1330 local time, three Peruvian Air Force airplanes on a support mission to the Peruvian ground forces in the area of Tihuinza, in Peruvian territory, came under attack by Ecuadoran anti-aircraft weapons and have not returned to their bases. The communique adds that to date the crew members who have been reported missing are: Victor Maldonado Begazo, commander of the Peruvian Air Force, and Major Enrique Caballero Orrego.

In conclusion the communique states that the Armed Forces Joint Command, in coordination with the Air Force high command, has ordered the continuation of search and rescue operations

Army Shoots Down Two Ecuadoran Planes

PY1302001195 Lima America Television Network in Spanish 2346 GMT 12 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This is a late report and a preview of what the Sunday review program will carry tonight.

Today, in the Cueva de los Tayos area, two Israeli-made Kfir aircraft of the Ecuadoran Army were shot down by the Peruvian troops. Peruvian anti-air missiles shot down these two aircraft when the Ecuadoran forces were attempting to retake the Cueva de los Tayos base, which was set up in Peruvian territory.

This is proof that intense fighting is occuring at the northern border. Today at 2000 (0100 GMT on 13 February) we will carry a special edition of the Sunday Review program that you should not miss. Reporter Nicolas Lucar will provide further information on this incident.

This has been a late report and a preview of the Sunday review.

Navy Summons 1994 Military Service Personnel

PY1002145295 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1414 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Peruvian Navy has summoned all those born in 1977, that is, those who did their military service in 1994, to the Navy recruiting office located on Square No. 2 on Grau Avenue, Callao Port.

Ecuadoran Soldiers Allegedly Retreating, Abandoning Weapons

PY1002164695 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1527 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lima, 10 Feb (EFE)—Peruvian sources have stated that a large number of rifles, machine guns, and sophisticated weapons are being abandoned by the Ecuadoran soldiers who are slowly withdrawing from the Tihuinza base in the Condor Mountain Range, which has been besieged for the past week by Peruvian troops.

The sources added that mortars, rocket launchers, bazookas, surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles are the main weapons found by Peruvian soldiers in the Base Sur and Cueva de los Tayos military bases, which were recovered by Peru over the past few days.

In addition to the weapons the Peruvians have found radio equipment and transmitters.

Peruvian soldiers wounded in combat at this base have said that, while retreating, several Ecuadoran soldiers were killed by stepping on their own mines.

The Lima daily ONDA today reports that "Ecuadoran morale is very low. They surrender as soon as they realized they are surrounded." It also reports that 12 Ecuadoran soldiers were taken prisoner in the past few hours.

Meanwhile, clashes continued today around the besieged Tihuinza base. Information from Peru states that the area of conflict has reduced by 3 kilometers.

Some 75 Peruvian soldiers, who had been reported missing, arrived at their bases safely on 9 February. They had lost their way in the jungle.

Peruvian sources reported that the Ecuadoran artillery launched mortar fire on Peruvian watch posts "Base Sur" and "PV-1," in the Condor mountain range on 9 February, without causing any casualties.

On Thursday night Peru reported a mortar attack on an International Red Cross post at a Peruvian post near the combat zone. There were no casualties. Quito authorities denied the attack.

First Group of Soldiers Relieved at Battlefront

PY1002233395 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2211 GMT 10 Feb 95

[Live telephone relay by correspondent Ismael Byron Horna from the El Milagro military base in Bagua]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An important relief operation for the troops took place today at this strategic military base of operations, when the first 150 soldiers to go to the battle zone returned to El Milagro after having been engaged in battle at the Ecuadoran border since the beginning of the conflict.

This courageous group of soldiers, who were received with honors by the officers in El Milagro, is made up of members of the Military Police, headed by Captain Carlos Herrera Arce, and the Tigers group commanded by Major Saltarriaga. The first 17 Peruvian casualties are from this group, which was involved in the historic recovery of Cueva de los Tayos and Base Sur. Also participating in the welcoming ceremony were peasants who donated food, such as Magno Ventura, president of the Choldun peasant community, who delivered 2,000 kg of food including cabbages, dry vegetables, potatoes, and beans. Rolando Pelaez Lozano, governor of La Florida District in Bongara Province, Amazonas State, donated a 200 kg calf. [passage omitted]

Lima Mayor Ricardo Belmont is visiting Bagua, and we will have a report on his comments soon. This has been a report by Ismael Horna from the El Milagro military base in Bagua, Amazonas Department.

3,500 Soldiers Sent From Ayacucho to Border Area

PY1102221195 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2040 GMT 11 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayacucho, Peru, 11 Feb (EFE)—On 11 February some 3,500 soldiers were sent from Ayacucho to the area in dispute between Peru and Ecuador. The soldiers, their officers, and military equipment were transported to the border area aboard "Hercules" cargo planes. These soldiers have been fighting subversion in Ayacucho Department for 14 years, since the Maoist group Shining Path began operating in Peru.

These troops will apparently go into action immediately, in the final offensive against the Ecuadoran garrison of Tihuinza in the Condor mountain range, which is the only one left for the Peruvian troops to capture in order to expel the Ecuadorans from the Peruvian slope of the Condor mountain range.

During a news conference with foreign correspondents today, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori declined to provide any time limit for the capture of the Tihuinza garrison, which has been besieged by Peruvian troops for a week. He nonetheless reported that hostilities have not ceased.

Replacement Troops Arrive at Condor; Health Activities Detailed

PY1202220895 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1418 GMT 12 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lima, 12 Feb (EFE)—Approximately 1,000 Peruvian replacement troops arrived early this morning in the eastern part of the Condor mountain range to replace those soldiers who for a week have laid siege to the Ecuadoran base of Tihuinza.

Peruvian military sources today stated that combat operations over Tihuinza continue to escalate. It is believed that 800 Ecuadoran military personnel are defending the base. The same sources today confirmed that yesterday, 11 February, Peruvian mine experts entered the Tihuinza zone to defuse the mines planted there by the Ecuadoreans. These mines have stopped the advancement of the Peruvians and have caused many injuries.

To prevent the spread of some diseases, Army health personnel are also combing the region to retrieve rapidly decaying corpses due to the high temperatures and humidity in the jungle.

To avoid snakes, spiders, and mosquitoes bites, the Army has sent 900 vials of an antidote against snake bites—the Polivalen Antibotropic serum—which neutralizes the venom of four types of snakes that are found in large numbers in the Amazon jungle. Snake and insect bites have caused dozens of casualties among Peruvian fighters. It has been estimated that for each soldier suffering a gunshot wound, four soldiers are treated for snake, bat, spider, and other insect bites at the Bagua Hospital, which is located 250 km from the battlefront. In most cases these bites are not fatal, but they cause a serious inflammation and fever for several days, and leave the victims extremely weak.

Unofficial sources have stated in Lima that the battle to retake Tihuinza, which today enters its 10th day, has produced some 150 casualties on each side.

During the 18 days of combat since the conflict erupted, the Peruvian and Ecuadoran casualties have already surpassed 300, death and injuries included. Officially, both Lima and Quito have akcnowledged only some 50 casualties on each side.

Peruvian Red Cross President Denies Hospital Damaged

PY1002183095 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1647 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mabel Valenzuela is now with the president of the Peruvian Red Cross. We must recall that on 9 February Ecuador bombed Peruvian posts that had Red Cross personnel. Mabel will now give us an exact report because this is what has been published on the front pages of today's newspapers. Mabel, can you hear me?

[Begin recording] [Valenzuela] Thank you, Monica. Good morning. The "Directo en Directo" program is here with Dr. Lauro Munoz, president of the Peruvian Red Cross.

It would seem there was an attack on a field hospital of the Peruvian Red Cross. This information has been published, but we want to confirm this with Dr. Munoz. Have you received a report?

[Munoz] Yes. I wish to inform you that there was an armed attack. I want it known that no field hospital of the International Committee of the Red Cross, or of the Peruvian Society of the Red Cross, which I represent, has been touched. There have been no victims.

[Valenzuela] Why the confusion, doctor?

[Munoz] We believe it was a mistake, and we have been informed, but not officially, that a field hospital was affected, not very seriously. It belongs to the Peruvian Social Security Institute. [passage omitted] [end recording]

CIDH Charges Ecuador With Violating Human Rights

PY1002153195 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0406 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lima, 9 Feb (EFE)—Ecuador was today charged before the Inter-American Human Rights Committee (CIDH) with "violating its international commitments" by violating the rights of Peruvian civilians in its war with Peru.

The charges were submitted by the Unity for Peru Movement (UPP), headed by former UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in a letter addressed to CIDH Executive Secretary Edith Marquez. Among the charges, the letter mentions the planting of mines by Ecuadoran troops, which last week caused the death of one Peruvian civilian and mutilated two others. The letter says Ecuadoran troops violated "the convention on the use of mines, which prohibits—under any circumstance—the use of mines, traps, or similar devices against civilian populations or individuals."

Ecuador is also charged with the "arbitrary detention and ill treatment" of 47 Peruvian citizens who were in that country when war broke out, and the attack on two Peruvian journalists on 7 February in Quito. The journalists reported that about 10 men wearing camouflage trousers and military boots "beat them up brutally" and sprayed them with tear gas, after confiscating the tapes they were going to broadcast in Peru.

In view of these charges, the Unity for Peru movement urges the CIDH to condemn Ecuador for "the violations it has committed" and to raise charges at the International Human Rights Court.

The UPP also asked the CIDH and the Court to "urgently" persuade the Ecuadoran Government to protect the Peruvian citizens detained in Ecuador, to get that country to clear the mines which threaten the civilian population, and to pay indemnity to the victims.

Chile Sending High-Ranking Officers To Join Commission

PY1102000695 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2317 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There is already an answer from a member of the guarantor countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol in face of the proposal made by the guarantor representatives meeting in Brasilia to create a technical-military commission that will meet in Brasilia.

The Chilean Government announced this afternoon that it will send two high-ranking officers, specialists of the general staff, to Brazil to join a technical-military commission of the guarantor countries mediating in the Peruvian-Ecuadoran conflict. The commission, which will be made up of military officers of the United States, Argentina, Brazil, and Chile, will meet as of 13 February in Brasilia to study the possibility of verifying the enforcement of a cease-fire in case the peace negotiations succeed.

The announcement was made by Jose Joaquin Brunner, Chilean minister secretary general of government, in Santiago.

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